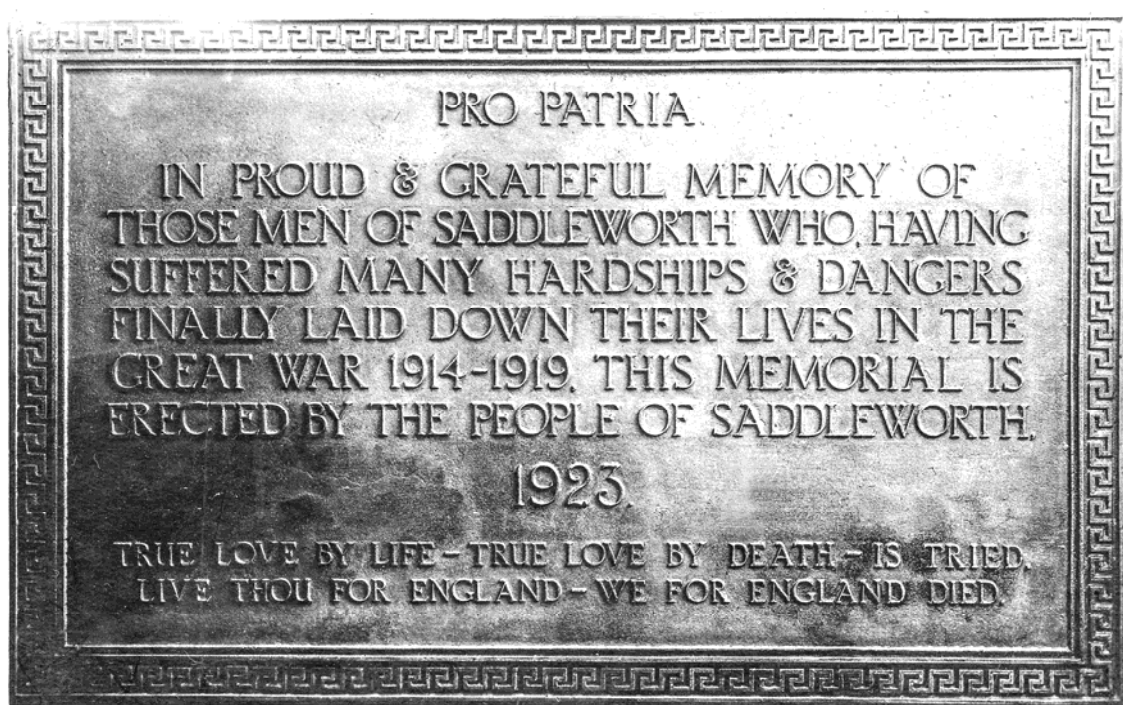


Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



Volume 44

Number 3

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Bulletin of the Saddleworth Historical Society

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Cover Illustration: Plaque on the Pots & Pans Memorial
By Humphrey and Oakes of Bristol, Saddleworth Museum Archives M/HOW/2/10

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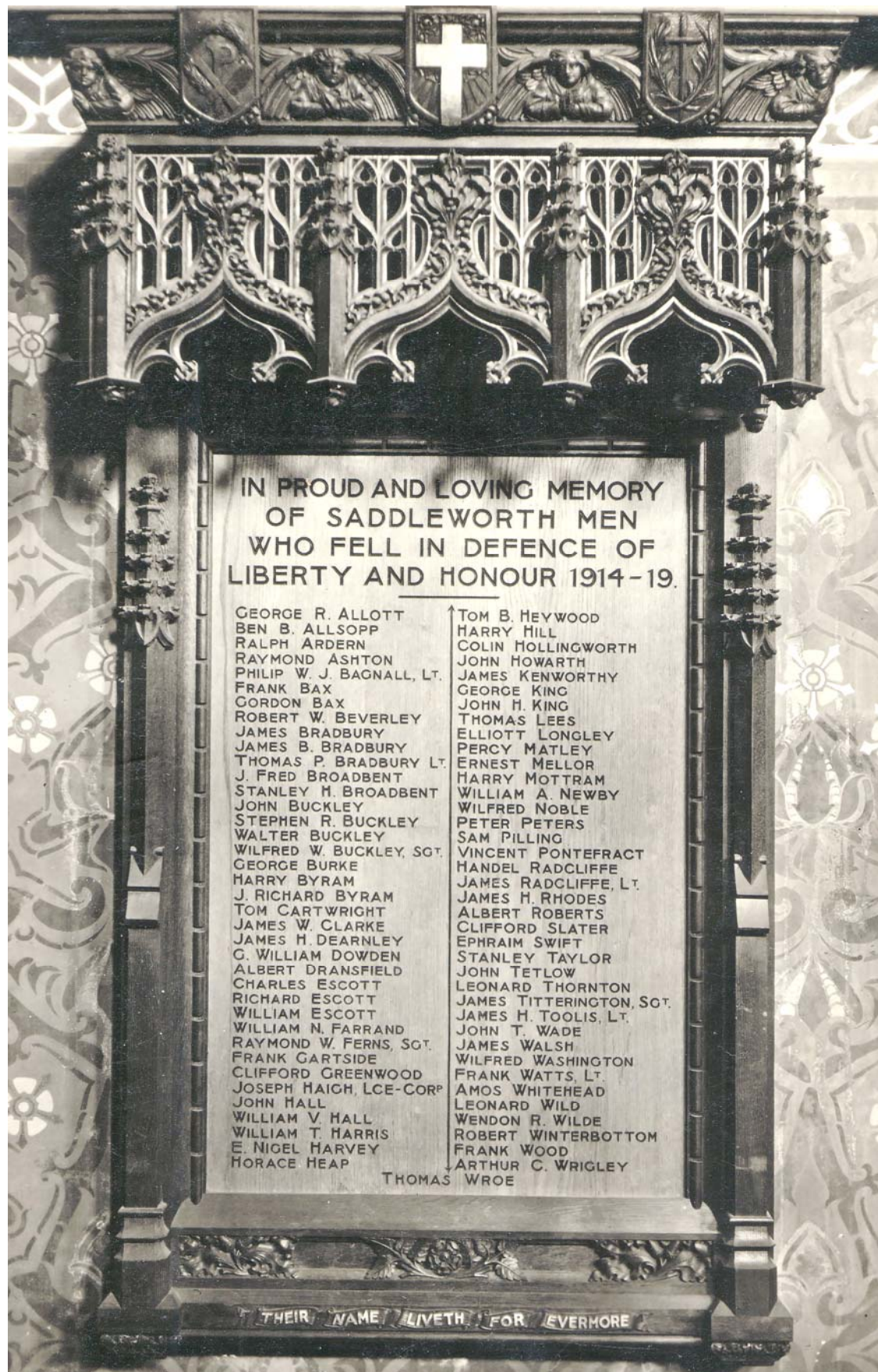
EDITORIAL

The First World War had a devastating impact on the people of Saddleworth. Few families were unaffected. Sons enlisted or were called-up and many never returned. Out of those that did a large number suffered life changing injuries. Bill Michinson, in his book *Saddleworth 1914-19*, charts the history of the war and how it affected the lives of local people. The book also describes the movement at the end of the war to erect a war memorial which, after a good deal of controversy, was finally built at Pots and Pans. At the time, and up to the present, the completeness of the list of those commemorated has been a topic of concern; many names were omitted.

This special edition of the Bulletin is dedicated to the First World War. It contains a study by Ivan Foster adding to the list of names of casualties published in the Bulletin in 2010; names that were never commemorated on Pots and Pans even though they had lived in Saddleworth or had close links with the district.

The survivors of the war are now all gone and with them the opportunity to record first hand what the war meant to local families. A personal account recorded some years ago by Clara Shaw, describes her own family's involvement; Clara was a child during the war and died last year at the age of 101. The accounts of three other families is included, two are officer class, well to do Saddleworth families, another the Bax family illustrates the devastating effect of the war on a large working class family with five sons.

Future special editions of the Bulletin will be dedicated to further studies of the way in which the First World War left a permanent and lasting change to Saddleworth Society.



SMA M/P/K41

St Chad's War Memorial panel which commemorates the Bax brothers

ADDITIONS TO SADDLEWORTH 1914 - 1919 PART 2

Ivan Foster

The *Oldham Chronicle* for 30th June 1923 gave a list of those casualties whose names would be cast on the memorial plaques on the Pots and Pans war memorial. It was also announced that “Names must be sent in not later than next week: Decorations should be added.” Many families either missed this announcement or, for whatever reason, did not wish their loved-ones to be recorded. Bill Mitchinson in *Saddleworth 1914–1919*, in 1995, provided information on over sixty more Saddleworth casualties and Neil Barrow’s update, in the *Bulletin* of Summer 2010, provided more names. Since then details of more Saddleworth men and women have been discovered, especially from recently uncovered and recorded Saddleworth graveyard memorials, local war memorials and newspaper reports. They all have links with Saddleworth, either through birth, residence, family or employment.

Binns, John	Private	8th Bn Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)	
Service No. 12149	Killed in action (kia) at Salonica 21st Aug. 1915		<i>Age 30.</i>
Enlisted at Keighley, Yorkshire.			
William, his brother, fell in action in France 12th April 1918.			
Born 1884 in Saddleworth.			
Son of Rufus & Hannah Binns (née Milnes).			
John was employed in a cotton mill 1901 & 1911.			
Commemorated on; St Anne's grave no178, British Legion Lydgate Memorial Scroll, Helles Memorial Panel 117 to 119.			

Booth, Mallinson	Private	12th Bn Manchester Regiment	
Service No. 48043		kia on 21st March 1918	<i>Age 32.</i>
Enlisted at Mossley			
Born in 1886 at Mossley.			
Son of William & Sarah J. Booth (née Jenkinson) of Mossley.			
Mallinson was a cotton mill piecer in 1901			
& a railway contractor labourer in 1911.			
He married Rachel Andrew in 1906 at Ashton-under-Lyne.			
Commemorated on; All Saints, Micklehurst memorial plaque			
in porch of church,			
Micklehurst Conservative Club memorial,			
Unitarian Church memorial (now at St George's,			
Mossley).			
Interred at Lebusquiere Communal Cemetery Extension II. D. 4.			

Bottomley, Harold	Private	1st Bn Manchester Regiment	
Service No. 2183		kia in Mesopotamia on 8th March 1916	<i>Age 23.</i>
Enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne.			
Born 1893 at Diggle.			
Son of Albert & Kate Bottomley (née Ratcliffe).			
Harold was employed as a woollen piecer in 1911.			
Commemorated on; Delph Wesleyan War Memorial,			
Uppermill Wesleyan War Memorial,			
St John's War Memorial,			
Basra Memorial, Iraq Panel 31 and 64.			

- Bower, Albert Henry** Private 2nd Bn York & Lancaster Regiment
Service No. 18784 Died on 8th June 1916 *Age 31.*
Born 1885 in Saddleworth.
Son of Henry & Hannah Bower (née Earlam) of Delph.
Albert Henry was a woollen feeder 1901 & a finisher in 1911.
He married Mary A. Woodward in 1910 at Saddleworth.
Interred at Essex Farm Cemetery, grave II. R. 3.
- Bradbury, Edward Kinder** Capt 'L' Bty Royal Horse Artillery
kia on 1st September 1914 *Age 33.*
Born in 1882 at Bowden, Cheshire.
Son of Judge James Kinder & Grace Bradbury (née Dowling)
of Altrincham.
Interred at Nery Communal Cemetery.
- Bradbury, Harry** Lieutenant 53rd Div. H.Q. Royal Engineers DGO
Died in Egypt on 3rd December 1918. *Age 25.*
Born in 1894 in Saddleworth.
Son of Bennett & Mary Bradbury (née Brooke)
of Windsor Rd., Oldham.
Harry was a student at Manchester University in 1911.
Interred at Alexandria (Hadra), Egypt War Memorial Cemetery B. 99.
- Brierley, Samuel** L/Cpl 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers
Service No. 2241 Died on 10th July 1917 *Age 27.*
Enlisted at Dewsbury, Yorkshire.
Born in 1891 at Delph.
Son of John & Eliza Brierley of Delph.
Samuel employed as a rug weaver in 1911.
He married Hilda M. Roberts, in 1912, at Dewsbury.
Commemorated on; Delph Wesleyan Memorial Plaque.
Interred at Coxyde Military Cemetery, grave I. I. 41.
- Brindley, Joseph** possibly Cpl 2nd Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Died as result of WW1 illness at Norwood
Hospital, Middlesex on 17th September 1922 *Age 22.*
[no record in CWGC]
Born in 1897 in Saddleworth.
Son of John William & Sarah Jane Brindley (née Isherwood).
Joseph was employed as an apprentice iron turner in 1911.
Interred St Chad's New Yard, grave NY805.
- Buckley, Abraham** Private 1st/7th Bn Duke of Wellington's
Service No. 947 kia in France on 20th December 1915 *Age 24.*
Enlisted at Uppermill.
Born in 1892 at Oldham.
Son of Philip & Susannah Buckley (née Barrott).
Abraham was employed as a spinner cotton mule piecer in 1911.
Commemorated on; Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 20.
- Buckley, Frank** Private 11th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Service No. 8733 kia on 19th November 1915 *Age 32.*
Enlisted at Hollinwood, Lancashire.
Born in 1884 in Saddleworth.
Son of Reuben & Louisa Alice Buckley (née Maloney) of Waterhead.
Frank was an iron founder in 1901 & a moulder iron trade in 1911.
Interred at Gunners Farm Military Cemetery, grave E. 4.

- Buckley, Harry Lindley** Corporal 8th (Service) Bn Devonshire Regiment
 Service No. 3/7802 *kia* on 25th September 1915 *Age 43.*
 Enlisted at Barnstaple, Devon.
 Born in 1872 in Saddleworth.
 Son of Edward & Rose Buckley (née Lindley) of Saddleworth.
 Harry married Emily Richards at Barnstaple in 1903.
 He was a cotton piecer in 1891 & a self-acting minder in 1901.
 Commemorated on; Loos Memorial Panel 35 to 37.
- Buckley, John** Schoolmaster 1st Class Corps of Army Schoolmasters
 Service No. 12476/4 *killed* in India on 9th November 1918 *Age 33.*
 Enlisted at Aldershot.
 Born in 1885 at Ardwick, Manchester.
 Son of John & Amy Sumner Buckley (née Walker).
 Commemorated on; Delhi 1914-1918 War Memorial,
 St Chad's, New Yard, grave NY3492.
 Interred at Maorat, India.
- Buckley, Joseph** Private "D" Coy 24th Bn Manchester Regiment
 Service No. 14829 *kia* in France on 6th October 1917 *Age 28.*
 Enlisted at Oldham.
 Born in 1887 at Pastures.
 Son of William & Ann Buckley (née Taylor) of Stamford Rd, Hey.
 Joseph was employed as a cotton mule piecer in 1911.
 Commemorated on; St Chad's, New yard, grave NY2534,
 Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 120 to 124.
- Burns, John** Private Army Service Corps 706th Motor Transport Coy
 supplying to the 3rd Serbian Army.
 Service No. DM2/ *Died* on 11th Nov 1918 (last day of WW1) at *Age 38.*
 Salonika
 Enlisted at Bradford.
 John also had two brothers, Nicholas & Philomen Theophilus Burns,
 who served & survived.
 Born in 1880 at Greenfield.
 Son of Hugh & Isabella Burns (née Carton).
 John was a mason's labourer in 1901 & a school caretaker in 1911.
 Interred at Chela Kula Military Cemetery, Nis, Yugoslavia, grave A.2.
- Butterworth, James Wild** Private 24th Bn Manchester Regiment
 Service No. 15451 *kia* on 14th July 1916 *Age 29.*
 Enlisted at Oldham.
 Born in 1887 at Dobcross.
 Son of Isaac & Sarah Butterworth (née Wild) of Saddleworth.
 James was a woollen weaver in 1901 & a roller coverer in 1911.
 Commemorated on; Thiepval Memorial Pier & Face 13 A & 14 C.
- Case, Wilfred** Rifleman 1st Bn Monmouthshire Regt (Territorial Force)
 (formerly 19739 Royal Lancashire Regt)
 Service No. 288782 *kia* on 2nd April 1918 *Age 19.*
 Enlisted at Hollinwood, Lancashire.
 Born in 1898 at Oldham.
 Son of Mrs Sarah Quarmby, of 54, Woodbrook Rd., Lees.
 Wilfred was employed as a little piecer in 1911.
 Commemorated on; St Paul's Memorial Cupboard.

- Dewhurst, Richard** Gunner 143rd Heavy Bty Royal Garrison Artillery
Service No. 294040 Died from pneumonia in hospital at Salonika
on 27th October 1918 *Age 25.*
Enlisted 1st Nov 1915 at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Born in 1893 at Oldham.
Son of Richard & Ellen Dewhurst (née Wood) of Roaches, Mossley.
Employed as a cotton piecer at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd.. Memorial,
St John's Memorial Reredos,
Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Roll of Honour,
Roaches.
Interred at Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece, grave A. 159.
- Firth, William** Private 2nd Bn Lincolnshire Regiment
(formerly 34334 Leicestershire Regt).
Service No. 41695 *Age 33.* *kia on 31st July 1917*
Enlisted at Huddersfield (residing at Elland).
Born in 1884 at Saddleworth.
Son of John & Caroline F. Firth (née Pogson).
William was employed as a printing compositor in 1911.
Commemorated on; Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 21.
- Fish, Harold** Sergeant "B" Bty 77th Bde Royal Field Artillery
Service No. 24071 *Age 30.* *kia on 13th October 1917*
Enlisted at Blackpool.
Born in 1888 at Salford.
Son of Alderman James Fish, J.P., of Blackpool.
Harold married Nellie A.V. Bradbury (of Saddleworth) in 1909 at Salford.
He was a commercial traveller of tea in 1911.
Interred at Poelcapelle British Cemetery, grave XL. E. 9.
- Girling, Walter** Gunner "B" Bty 286th Bde Royal Field Artillery
Service No. 70593 *Age 30.* *Died of wounds (dow) in France on 28th March 1918*
Enlisted at Shaw.
Born in 1887 at Denshaw.
Son of George & Louisa Girling (née Shrigley) of Newhey.
Walter was employed as a colour mixer in 1911.
Commemorated on; Christchurch, Denshaw, grave DEN 202.
Interred at Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, grave III. C. 16.
- Hall, Herbert** Private 2nd Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Service No. 45840 *Age 20.* *dow at Etaples, France on 4th August 1918*
Enlisted at Shaw.
Born in 1898 in Oldham.
Son of Charles Hervey & Bertha Hall (née Mayall) of Oldham.
Commemorated on; St Chad's, New Yard, grave NY 1228,
Uppermill Wesleyan Memorial Panel.
Interred at Etaples Military Cemetery, grave LXVIII. A. 9.
- Hamer, Frank** Captain 9th Bn Manchester Regiment (Territorial)
Age 35. *kia on 7th June 1915*
Born in 1880 at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Son of William & Ann Hamer, J.P., of Birch House, Ashton-under-Lyne.
Frank married Winifred E. Mallalieu, of Delph, in 1907 at Saddleworth.
Frank was an articled clerk (accountant) in 1901 & was employed at a
chartered accountants' in 1911.
Commemorated on; Delph Wesleyan War Memorial,
Helles Memorial Panel 158 to 170.

Hamer, Willie Houghton	Private	1/9th Bn Manchester Regiment	
Service No. 932		kia at Gallipoli on 19 th June 1915	<i>Age 29.</i>

Enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne.

Born in 1887 in Saddleworth.

Son of Thomas Ellis & Agnes C. Hamer (née Dobson) of Hurst,
Ashton-u-Lyne.

Willie was employed as a cotton piecer in 1901 & 1911.

Interred at Redoubt Cemetery, Helles Sp. Mem. A. 155.

Harling , Tom Lough	2/Lt	21st Bn Manchester Regiment kia at Ypres on 26th October 1917	<i>Age 22.</i>
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Born in 1895 at Workington, Cumberland.

Son of Tom & Frances Harling (née Hall) of Ashton-under-Lyne.

Tom was employed as a sugar boiler in 1911.

Commemorated on; Christ Church, Denshaw, grave Den 32,
Tyne Cot Memorial; Panel 120 to 124 & 162 to 162A.

Hartley , Edgar	L/Cpl	1st Bn Manchester Regiment	
Service No. 32577		kia on 9th January 1917	<i>Age 23.</i>

Enlisted at Shaw, Lancashire.

Born in 1894 at Oldham.

Son of Rev. Leeming & Mary Hartley (née Alison) Congregational Minister.

Edgar was a bank clerk in 1911, living in Greenfield.

Interred at Amara War Cemetery, grave XXIII. A. 8.

Hollingworth, Thomas	Private	7th Bn Cameron Highlanders	
	Service No. S/22261	(formerly 70691 RAMC)	
		kia on 28th April 1917	Age 27.

Enlisted at Huddersfield.

Born in 1892 at Ashton-under-Lyne.

Son of Alfred & Henrietta Millicent E. Hollingwoth (née McWhinnie).

Thomas married Ethel Edwards in 1914 at Saddleworth.

He was employed as a moulder at an iron foundry in 1911.

Commemorated on; St Thomas' Roll of Honour.

Interred at Tank Cemetery, Guemappe, grave F. 1.

Holroyd, Benton	Private	35th Coy Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)	
Service No. 25386 F		kia at Ypres on 29th September 1918	<i>Age 31.</i>

Enlisted at Oldham.

Born in 1887 at Denshaw.

Son of Joseph & Ann Walton (née Holroyd) of Moorside.

Benton was half-brother of Pte Alfred Walton who was kia at

Comnicourt, France, 25th March 1918, age 27.

He was a part time cotton dyer in 1901 & a carter in 1911.

Commemorated on; Christchurch, Denshaw, grave Den 178,

Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 154 to 159 and 163A.

Howard , Edwin	Private	19th Coy (Chester) Royal Army Medical Corps	
Service No. 132311		Died at home on 4th November 1918	<i>Age 32.</i>

Enlisted at Hull.

Born in 1886 in Saddleworth.

Son of Edwin & Annie Howard (née Seniscal) of Hull.

Edwin married Alice Foster in 1906 at Hull.

Edwin was employed as a carter in 1911.

Interred at Hedon Road Cemetery, Hull, 152. 16.

- Hudson, Julius** Private Royal Army Medical Corps
1st/3rd (West Riding) Field Ambulance
Service No. 75586 Died on 28th November 1917 *Age 30.*
Born in 1889 at Delph.
Son of Joshua H. & Edna M. Hudson.
Julius was married, in 1915, to Ethel Haigh of Meltham.
He was employed as a butcher's assistant in 1901
& as a woollen weaver at Marsden in 1911.
Commemorated on; Delph Wesleyan War Memorial,
Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 160.
- Huxley, John Kershaw** Private 1st/4th East Yorkshire Regiment
(formerly 64978 Welsh Regt).
Service No. 42276 Killed in France on 27th May 1918 *Age 19.*
Enlisted at Stockport.
Frank, his brother, was killed in Gallipoli Dec 3rd 1915 age 19.
Born in 1899 at Stockport.
Son of John & Ada Huxley (née Kershaw) of Stockport.
Grandson of John Huxley, station master at Saddleworth in 1881.
Commemorated on; St Chad's, New Yard, grave no NY 3344,
Soissons Memorial.
- Jebson, Lawrence** Gunner 189th Bde Royal Field Artillery
Service No. 127364 died on 21st March 1918 *Age 23.*
Enlisted at Linthwaite.
Born in 1895 at Delph.
Son of Walter & Elizabeth Jebson (née Turton).
Lawrence was employed as a woollen piecer in 1911.
Interred at Roye New British Cemetery: Marcheopot British Cemetery
Memorial 46.
- Johnson, John James** Private 1st/10th Bn Manchester Regiment
Service No. 1600 Died in Egypt on 24th June 1915 *Age 19.*
Enlisted at Oldham.
Born in 1897 in Saddleworth.
Son of George & Ada Johnson (née Rhodes) of Oldham.
John James was an errand boy in 1911.
Interred at Pieta Military Cemetery, Egypt, XXV.
- Kanes, Ernest** Private 1st Bn Manchester Regiment
Service No. 1381 kia in Mesopotamia on 8th March 1916 *Age 22.*
Enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne (resident of Mossley).
His brother Arthur was kia in 1914. Born in 1894 at Warrington.
Son of George & Olive Kanes (née Salter).
Commemorated on; Greenfield Wesleyan War Memorial,
Basra Memorial Panel 31 and 64.
- Kelly, Fred** Lieutenant West Riding Regiment
Died on 18th February 1916 *Age 39.*
[no known record in CWGC]
Born in 1878 in Oldham.
Son of Frederick & Elizabeth Kelly.
Commemorated on; St Chad's, New Yard, grave NY 1739.

- Lee, Fred** Private 9th Bn Manchester Regiment
 Service No. 1917 Died on 19th June 1915 *Age 30.*
 Born in 1885 at Stalybridge.
 Son of William Robinson & Mary Ann Lee (née Phillips)
 of Ashton-u-Lyne.
 Fred was employed as a cotton piecer in 1901
 & a cotton minder in 1911.
 He was employed at Joseph Clare Ltd. Dyeworks, Greenfield.
 Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial.
 Interred at Lancashire Landing Cemetery, grave C 45.
- Marshall, Harry** Private 1st/7th Bn Duke of Wellington's
 Service No. 2567 died on 11th December 1915 *Age 20.*
 Enlisted Nov. 1914 at Milnsbridge, Yorkshire
 His brothers, George kia 13th May 1917 & Frederick kia 29th Oct 1917.
 Born in 1896 at Barnsley.
 Son of George & Ann Marshall, (née Brown) of Carrbrook.
 Harry was employed at stiffing works in 1911.
 He was employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.
 Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial,
 Carrbrook Village War Memorial.
 Interred at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, grave IV. C. 25A.
- Mayall, James** 2/Lt 4th Bn King's Own Scottish Borderers
 Killed on 13th November 1918 *Age 27.*
 Born in 1892 at Cross Bank, Lees.
 Son of George Albert & Hannah Mayall (née Kershaw) of Oldham.
 James was employed as an ironmonger's assistant in 1911.
 Interred at St. John's churchyard extension, grave J 86.
- Mellor, Stanley** Private 15th Bn Durham Light Infantry
 Service No. 49417 kia at Heugecourt, France,
 on 10th September 1918 *Age 27.*
 Enlisted at Halifax (residing at Mossley).
 Born in 1892 at Mossley.
 Son of Fred & Martha Mellor (née Whitehead) of Mossley.
 Stanley was employed as a cotton piecer (mules) in 1911.
 Commemorated on; British Legion Memorial Scroll, Lydgate,
 St. Anne's grave LYD 37,
 St John's War Memorial Reredos.
 Interred at Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, grave I. H. 14.
- Mills, George Thomas** Private Royal Army Medical Corps
 Service No. 136115 Died on 12th March 1919 *Age 24.*
 Born in 1895 at Dobcross.
 Son of Harry & Ada Mills (née Buckley) of Greenfield.
 George Thomas was employed as a mill hand woollen in 1911.
 Interred at Mossley Cemetery (CWGC Headstone) N.C. 1394.
- Mills, Herbert Cecil** Sergeant 2nd/10th Bn Manchester Regiment
 Service No. 375928 kia at Ypres on 7th October 1917 *Age 22.*
 Enlisted at Oldham.
 Born in 1895 at Delph.
 Son of Joseph Bradbury & Florence Mills (née Kaye) of Oldham.
 Herbert Cecil was employed in an office at a mill in 1911.
 Commemorated on; St Thomas' grave StThFr 162N.
 Interred at Menin Road South Military Cemetery, grave II. L. 13.

- Palmer, Joseph** Private 1st/7th Bn Duke of Wellington's
Service No. 305637 died on 15th August 1917 in France *Age 22.*
Enlisted at Milnsbridge, Yorkshire.
Born in 1896 at Radcliffe, Lancashire.
Son of Tom & Rachel Palmer (née Tatton).
Joseph was employed as a big piecer on spinning mules in 1911.
Commemorated on; St George's War Memorial.
Interred at Adinkerke Military Cemetery, grave C.21.
- Pearson, Frank Beastow** No details of rank or regiment as he died after end of war
Died as a result of illness in war,
on 6th December 1922 *Age 28.*
Born in 1894 in Saddleworth.
Son of Henry & Eliza M. Pearson (née Beastow).
Frank was employed as a woollen shawl finisher in 1911.
Interred at Christchurch, Friezland, grave CCF 801.
- Pearson, James Edward** Private 1st/8th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Service No. 1797 died on 25th June 1915 at Gallipoli *Age 19.*
Enlisted at Salford.
Born in 1896 at Harpurhey, Manchester.
Son of James Robinson & Zilpha Pearson (née Wood).
James Edward was employed as a clerk in 1911.
Commemorated on; St Chad's, New Yard, grave NY3224.
Interred at Lancashire Landing Cemetery, grave C.82.
- Richardson, Arthur** Private 10th Bn Cheshire Regiment
Service No. 244247 Died on 23rd March 1918 *Age 21.*
Enlisted at Stalybridge.
Born in 1897 at Millbrook, Stalybridge.
Son of John & Elizabeth Ann Richardson, of 25, Grafton St., Millbrook.
Arthur was employed as a ring doffer in 1911.
He was later employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial,
Stalybridge War Memorial,
Arras Memorial Bay 5 and 6.
- Roberts, John** Private 9th Bn Yorkshire Regiment
(formerly 1667 West Riding Regt)
Service No. 266475 Died on 20th July 1918 *Age 23.*
Enlisted at Marsden.
Born in 1895 at Delph.
Son of Percy & Ada Roberts (née Settle) of Marsden.
John was employed as a woollen piecer in 1911.
Commemorated on; Delph Wesleyan War Memorial,
Giavera Memorial, Italy.
- Rushton, Harry** Private 12th Bn Manchester Regiment
Service No. 13573 died on 31st October 1916 *Age 40.*
Enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Born in 1875 at Stalybridge.
Son of John & Sarah Ann Rushton (née Dodd), of Stalybridge.
Harry married in 1899 at Ashton-under-Lyne to Alice Reynard.
He was employed as a clerk in 1891 & as a labourer in a printworks
in 1901 & 1911.
He was later employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial,
Stalybridge War Memorial,
Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 13 A & 14 C.

- Russell, Joseph** Private 23rd Bn Manchester Regiment
Service No. 21617 dow on 12th August 1916 *Age 37.*
Enlisted at Manchester.
Born in 1880 at Pendleton, Salford.
Son of William & Ann Russell of Pendleton.
Joseph married in 1905 at Salford to Hannah Chadwick.
Joseph was employed as a stamper bleach at a works in 1901.
They were both employed at Joseph Clare Ltd. in 1911.
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial.
Interred at Netley Military Cemetery, grave C.E. 1838.
- Schofield, Alexander Trais** Capt Kent Cyclist Battalion att'd 2nd Bn Queen's Own
(Royal West Kent Rgt)
dow at Shargat, Mesopotamia
on 10th November 1918 *Age 23.*
Born in 1892 at Camberwell, London.
Third son of Frank, M.D. & Anne Schofield (née Traies) of London.
Alexander was an undergraduate at Oxford University in 1911.
Commemorated on; Christchurch, Frieze, grave CCF 1059.
Interred at Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, grave XIII. C. 4.
- Seville, Harold** Private 1st/10th Bn Manchester Regiment
Service No. 375101 kia on 4th June 1917 *Age 24.*
Enlisted at Oldham.
Born in 1893 at Dobcross.
Son of James & Esther Seville (née Whitehead) of Werneth, Oldham.
Harold was employed as a 'racer' in 1911.
Interred at Neuville-Bourjonval British Cemetery, grave F.11.
- Seville, (John) William** Private No.3 Coy 1st Bn Coldstream Guards
Service No. 6450 kia on 21st September 1917 *Age 32.*
Enlisted at Sheffield (mobilized August 1914).
Born in 1886 at Greenfield.
Son of the late Frank & Emma Seville (née Maiden), of Lad Hill, Greenfield.
William was employed as cotton piecer in 1901 & a labourer in 1911.
Commemorated on; Wrigley Mill Memorial Tablet,
Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 9 to 10.
- Shaw, Albert** Sergeant 7th Bn Duke of Wellington's
Service No. 305673 kia on 18th September 1916 *Age 23.*
Enlisted at Milnsbridge, Yorkshire.
Born in 1893 in Saddleworth.
Son of Levi & Eliza Shaw (née Cawson) of Mossley.
Albert worked as a piecer (mule) in 1911.
Commemorated on; St John's Memorial Reredos,
St George's War Memorial.
Interred at Bray Vale British Cemetery, Bray-Sur-Somme IV. A. 10.
- Shaw, Hugh** L/Cpl 1st/7th Bn Cheshire Regiment
Service No. 63075 dow on 30th October 1918 *Age 23.*
Enlisted at Mossley.
Hugh's brother Cpl Jepson Shaw also dow on 8th January 1920.
Born in 1895 at Mossley.
Son of John & Ellen Shaw (née Tipton) of Saddleworth (Mossley).
Hugh was a telegraph messenger in 1911.
Commemorated on; All Saints, Micklehurst, War Memorial.
Interred at Y Farm Military Cemetery, Bois-Grenier, grave, C. 91.

- Silvester, William Henry** Private 3rd/5th Bn Duke of Wellington's
Service No. 4637 Killed on 29th May 1916 *Age 32.*
Enlisted at Huddersfield.
Born in 1884 at Delph.
Son of William & Eliza Jane Silvester (née Turner) of Greenfield.
William Henry married in 1905 at Saddleworth to Mary Alice Wrigley.
He was employed as a draper's assistant in 1911.
Interred at Christ Church, Friezland, grave CCF 298.
- Smith, David** Private 20th Bn Royal Fusiliers
Service No. PS/7836 died while POW at Cotlingen *Age 19.*
on 8th October 1916
Enlisted at Shaw, Lancashire.
Born in 1897 at Oldham.
Son of John Alexander & Dorothy Smith, (née Davidson) of Flintshire.
Commemorated on; St Chad's, New Yard, grave NY3144.
Interred at Niederzwehren Cemetery, grave VII. J. 16.
- Smith, Thomas Hyde** L/Cpl 8th Bn King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)
Service No. 14964 killed on 12th April 1917 *Age 19.*
Enlisted at Shaw, Lancashire.
Born in 1897 at Oldham.
Son of James H. & Ethel Smith (née Hyde) of Heyside, Shaw.
Thomas Hyde was employed as a warehouse boy in 1911.
Commemorated on; Christ Church, Friezland, grave CCF 292.
Interred at Tilloy British Cemetery, grave IV. G. 10.
- Taylor, Frank** L/Cpl 10th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Service No. 4046 killed at Armentières on 15th May 1916 *Age 31.*
Enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Born in 1886 at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Son of Joseph & Eliza Taylor (née Grimshaw) of Ashton-under-Lyne.
Frank was employed as an assistant grocer in 1901.
Commemorated on; Delph Independent Chapel grave 98.
Interred at Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, grave I. A. 29.
- Taylor, Fred** Able Seaman HMS Howe Bn R.N. Div. Royal Naval Volunteer Res.
Service No. Mersey Z/743 died in 4th General Hospital, Camiers *Age 27.*
on 2nd May 1917
Enlisted 8/11/15, draft for BEF 4/12/16, joined Howe Battalion 24/1/17.
Born on 15th October 1889 in Saddleworth.
Son of James Henry & Esther Ann Taylor (née Scanlon) of Waterhead.
Fred was employed as a cotton spinner in 1901 & piecer in 1911.
Commemorated on; St Anne's, grave LYD 383,
British Legion Memorial Scroll, Lydgate Church.
Interred at Etaples Military Cemetery, grave XIX O 4.
- Taylor, Joseph** Lance Corporal 1st/7th Bn Duke of Wellington's
Service No. 305503 killed on 18th September 1916 *Age 35.*
Enlisted at Mossley 1914.
Born in 1881 at Oldham.
Son of James & Ellen Taylor (née Haigh) of Mossley.
Joseph married in 1901 at Ashton-under-Lyne to Elizabeth Ellen Healey.
Commemorated on; St John's War Memorial Reredos.
Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 6 A and 6 B.

Thomas, H. James	Private	Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) (formerly 8970, Yorkshire Regt)	
Service No. 17607		Died on 2nd April 1918	<i>Age 28.</i>
Enlisted at York (residing at Leeds).			
Born in 1890 in Saddleworth.			
Son of John & Mary Thomas of Leeds.			
Interred at St. John's, Moor Allerton, Yorkshire.			

Walker, Joe	Corporal	2nd/9th Bn Manchester Regiment	
Service No. 351370	kia on 9th October 1917		<i>Age 23.</i>
Born in 1894 at Ashton-under-Lyne.			
Son of John & Sarah Ann Walker (née Knowles) of Ashton-under-Lyne.			
Joe's brother John was kia on 19th June 1915.			
Joseph was employed as a blacksmith striker in 1911.			
He was later employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.			
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial,			
Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 120 to 124 and 162 to 162A.			

Walker, John	Private	1st/9th Bn Manchester Regiment	
Service No. 1426		kia on 19th June 1915	<i>Age 36.</i>
Enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne.			
Born in 1879 at Audenshaw.			
Son of John & Sarah Ann Walker (née Knowles) of Ashton-under-Lyne.			
Brother of Joe, kia on 9 th October 1917.			
John was employed as a builder's clerk in 1901 & 1911.			
He was later employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.			
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial.			
Interred at Redoubt Cemetery, Helles, Memorial, grave B. 75.			

Walton, Alfred	Private	1st/8th Bn. Manchester Regiment	
Service No. 38685		kia at Comnicourt, France on 25th March 1918	<i>Age 27.</i>
Enlisted at Shaw, Lancashire.			
Born in 1891 at Denshaw.			
Son of Joseph & Ann Walton (née Holroyd) of Moorside.			
Alfred's half-brother, Benton Holroyd was kia 29th Sept 1918 age 31.			
Alfred was employed as a cotton piecer (mule) in 1911.			
Commemorated on; Christ Church, Denshaw, grave Den 178, Arras Memorial Bay 7.			

Ward, Mark Bernard	Private	5th Bn. Duke of Wellington's	
	Service No. 579	dow at Rouen on 6th September 1916	<i>Age 22.</i>
Enlisted 10th Dec 1915 at Mossley.			
Born in 1895 at Mossley.			
Son of John & Jane Ward (née McGuinness) of Mossley.			
Mark Bernard was employed as a cotton mule piecer in 1911.			
He was later employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.			
Commemorated on; St John's War Memorial Reredos,			
Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial.			
Interred at St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, grave B. 23. 14.			

Walthill
Dobers
July 1st 1923

Sir,

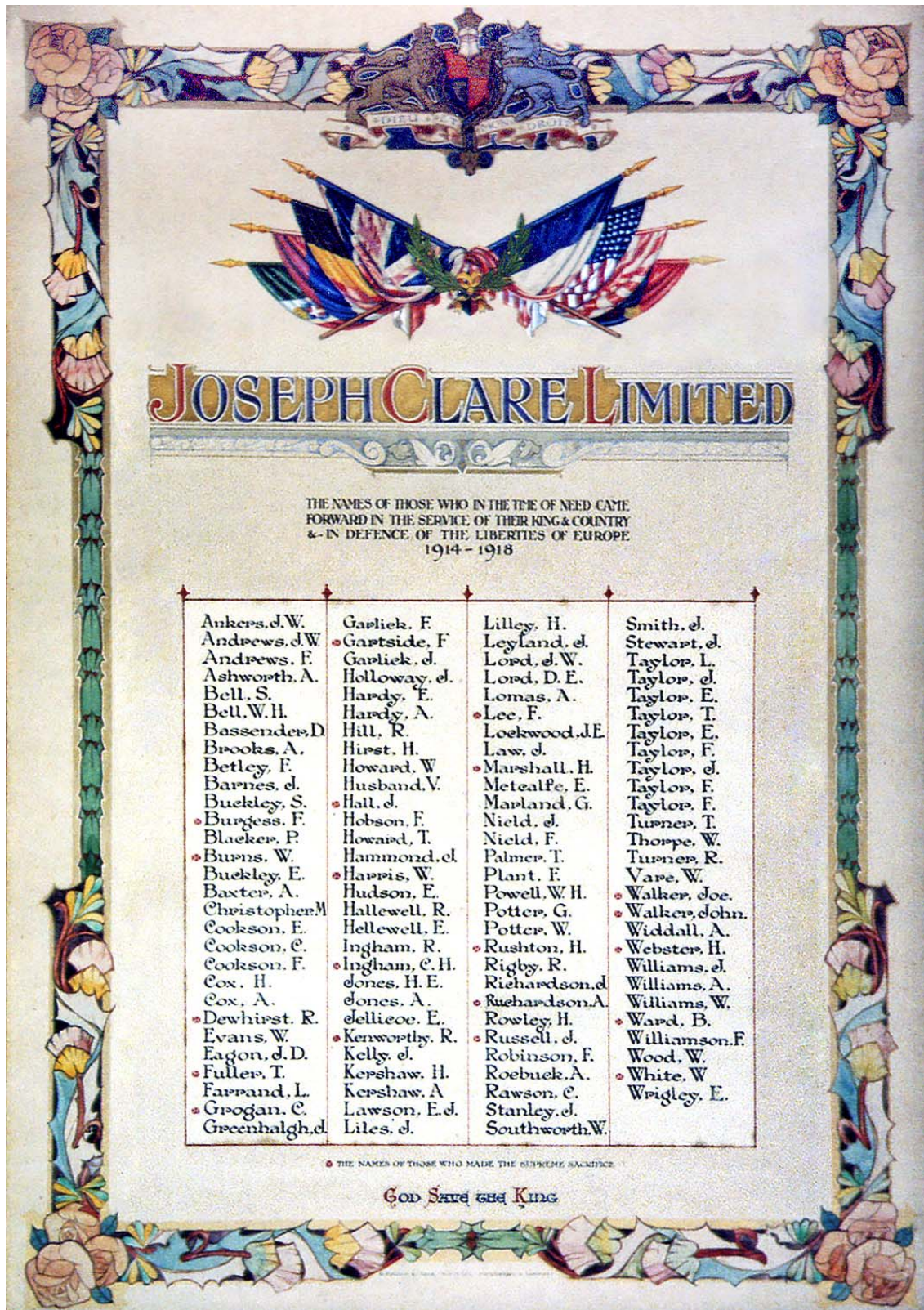
I have just seen the names of the men who are which are being put on the Saddleworth War Memorial, & I should like you to include the name of my son, Private Robert Naylor, 5782, 5th West Riding Regiment. Although we are Manchester people, we have lived in Saddleworth for the last seven years, & my son enlisted from the above address in March 1916 & was reported missing at Thiepval on Sept. 3rd of the same year. One of my sons served 2½ years in the R.A.M.C. & another nearly 2 years in the Royal Engineers.

Hoping this will receive your earliest attention,

Yours respectfully
Mrs E. Naylor

Saddleworth Museum Archives M/HOW/2/36

Request for son's name to be added to the Pots and Pans Memorial Plaque



SMA M/GX/KB9

Joseph Clare Ltd. War Memorial Scroll

- Webster, Harry** Private 2nd/5th Bn Duke of Wellington's
Service No. 240142 kia on 3rd May 1917 *Age 29.*
Enlisted at Mirfield, Yorkshire.
Born in 1887 at Mirfield.
Son of Matthias & Hannah Webster of Mirfield.
Harry married in 1912 at Dewsbury to Emma Dearden.
He was employed as a cotton waste mill labourer in 1901
and at an oil & wax manufacture in 1911.
Harry was later employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial,
Arras Memorial Bay 6.
- White, William** Private 2nd Bn South Wales Borderers
Service No. 41817 kia on 29th September 1918 *Age 19.*
Enlisted at Chester.
Born in 1899 at Mossley.
Son of Fred & Alice Hannah White (née Wyatt) also of Mossley.
William was later employed at Joseph Clare Ltd., Greenfield.
Commemorated on; Joseph Clare Ltd. Memorial,
St George's War Memorial.
Interred at Zantvoorde British Cemetery, grave I. D. 16.
- Whitehead, John Joe** Private 6th Bn Yorkshire Regiment
Service No. 38110 kia on 21st April 1918 *Age 34.*
Enlisted at Huddersfield (resident of Marsden).
Born in 1883 at Greenfield.
Probably son of son of Alice Whitehead, of Greenfield.
John Joe married in 1907 at Huddersfield to Alice Ann Clare.
He was employed as a woollen mill spinner in 1901
and as a weaver of cloth in 1911.
Commemorated on; Greenfield Wesleyan War Memorial.
Interred at Divion Communal Cemetery, grave 3.
- Wilkinson, Alfred** Private 10th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Service No. 20023 kia in France on 2nd September 1918 *Age 32.*
Enlisted at Salford.
Born in 1887 at Salford.
Son of Frank & Emily Wilkinson.
Alfred married Eliza A. Judson in 1913 at Salford.
He was an errand boy in 1901 and a stitch finisher in 1911.
Commemorated on; St Thomas', grave StThFr 251N,
Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 5 and 6.
- Winterbottom, Hector** L/Cpl 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers
Died at Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley,
on 22nd January 1922 *Age 21.*
Born in 1900 at Delph.
Son of Frederick & Sarah Alice Winterbottom (née Rhodes) of Delph.
Interred at St Thomas', grave StThFr 92N.
- Wood, Frank** Private Army Service Corps
Service No. M/205813 Died on 22nd June 1918 *Age 28.*
Born in 1890 at Diggle.
Son of James & Margaret Wood (née Hambleton) of Thurstons.
Frank married Ann Powles in 1912 at Prestwich.
He was a wagoner in 1911.
Commemorated on; Wrigley Mill Memorial.
Interred at St Chad's, Saddleworth, New Yard, grave NY 710.

- Woodhead, Alfred** Private 25th (Tyneside Irish) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers
(formerly 37318 Durham Light Infantry)
Service No. 45798 Killed on 26th April 1917 *Age 24.*
Enlisted at Mossley.
Born in 1893 at Mossley.
Son of James Henry & Elizabeth Ann Woodhead, (née Ogden)
of Mossley.
Alfred was employed in cotton spinning in 1911.
Commemorated on; St John's War Memorial Reredos.
Interred at Athies Communal Cemetery Extension, grave G. 8.
- Woodhead, George Herbert L/Cpl** 1st/9th Bn The King's (Liverpool Regiment)
Service No. 332900 Died on 9th December 1917 *Age 33.*
Enlisted at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Born in 1885 at Greenfield.
Son of William Herbert & Eliza Ann Woodhead (née Hinchliffe)
of Mossley.
George Herbert was employed as a carter on a farm in 1901 and as
a general carrier in 1911.
Commemorated on; St George's, War Memorial,
All Saints Church, Micklehurst, War Memorial Plaque,
Christ Church, Friezland, grave CCF 920.
Interred at St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, grave P.V.K. 2B.
- Wrigley, Charley** Private 7th Bn Duke of Wellington's, transferred to (224111)
243rd Div. Employment Coy Labour Corps,
attd 49th Coy Army Service Corps
(formerly 2271 West Riding Regt)
Service No. 305664 drow on 19th March 1918 *Age 42.*
Born in 1876 at Marsden.
Son of Edward and Alice Wrigley (née Shaw) of Marsden.
Charley married Mary J. Windram, of Saddleworth, in 1897.
He was a woollen cloth presser in 1901 & finisher in 1911.
Interred at The Huts Cemetery, grave XV. C. 9.
- Wrigley, Ezra** Gunner 123rd Bty 28th Bde Royal Horse Artillery
and RFA
Service No. 117608 drow on 14th April 1917 *Age 29.*
Enlisted at Shaw, Lancashire.
Born in 1888 in Saddleworth.
Son of Joseph & Esther Ann Wrigley (née Ritchings) of Shaw.
Ezra was employed as a cotton mule piecer in 1901 & 1911.
Commemorated on; Arras Memorial Bay 1.

Sources

Birth, Marriage & Death Records: <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>
Census Records 1841 to 1911: <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>
Military records: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/>,
Records for the War Dead of WW1 at <http://www.greatwar.co.uk/research/military-records/ww1-war-dead-records.htm>,
<http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>, <http://www.findmypast.co.uk>.

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Oldham Chronicle.

London Gazette

Monumental Inscriptions

Transcriptions in Saddleshworth Historical Society Archives

MI's Christ Church, Denshaw by I. Foster [Den]

MI's Christ Church, Friezland by Alison Wild 2002 [CCF]

MI's Delph Dale Lane by I. Foster [DaleLa]

MI's Delph Independent by Howard Lambert & I. Foster [DelInd]

MI's St Anne's Church, Lydgate by I. Foster [Lyd]

MI's St Chad's, New Yard, by Alison Wild & I. Foster [NY]

MI's St Chad's, Lower Yard by I. Foster [LY]

MI's St Thomas Church, Friarmere by I. Foster [StThFr]

Local War Memorials

All Saints Church, Micklehurst, Memorial Panel.

British Legion Memorial Scroll, Lydgate Church.

Christchurch Denshaw, Churchyard Memorial.

Christchurch Friezland, Memorial Plaque.

Delph Independent Chapel, Memorial Plaque (now inside Delph Methodist Chapel).

Delph Methodist Chapel, Memorial Plaque.

Greenfield Methodist Chapel, Memorial Roll of Honour.

Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross, Memorial Panel.

Joseph Clare Ltd., Memorial Roll of Honour (at Saddleshworth Museum).

Pastures Congregational Chapel, Memorial Plaque (at Saddleshworth Museum).

Pots and Pans, Saddleshworth, War Memorial.

Springhead Congregational Chapel, memorials.

St Anne's Church, Lydgate, Memorial Plaque and Scrolls.

St Chad's Church, Saddleshworth, Memorial Panel.

St George's Church, Mossley, Memorial Panels.

St John's the Baptist Church, Roughtown, Memorial Reredos.

St John the Baptist Church, Hey, Memorial.

St Paul's Church, Scouthead, Memorial Cupboard (now inside Holy Trinity, Dobcross).

St Thomas' Church, Delph, Roll of Honour.

Stalybridge War Memorial.

Uppermill Methodist Chapel, Memorial Panels.

Wrigley Mill Wesleyan Chapel, Diggle, Memorial Tablet.

MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR I 1914 – 1918

Clara Shaw¹

My Father, James was the second of five brothers, and when was broke out in 1914 he was 34 years old. His oldest brother, Herbert, was 36.

There were nine children, but three little girls died in infancy, leaving a gap of several years.

Charles Arthur Shaw



Shaw family collection

Charles Shaw

The third son Charles Arthur Shaw was born in 1886. At the start of the war he was working in the family business and had just married in June. He joined the Garrison Artillery 377 Battery and served in France, obviously he was ‘at the front’.²

He was wounded in the thumb and being artistic he was given embroidery to do for therapy. He embroidered his own regimental crest and that inspired me in the Second World War to do the same. Designs and instructions were available from Briggs at 8 pence (old money), and my work is to be found in many homes of people who served in World War 2.

Charles A. Shaw had a good natural alto voice but unfortunately it was ruined by poison gas in France. He died in 1941.

¹ This article is based on notes recorded by Clara Shaw on 13/03/1999 and deposited in Saddleworth Museum Archives: M/GX/KB/ShaDp1. Some additional material [] has been added.

² He had applied to the Saddleworth Tribunal for exemption from serving: *Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter* 22 July 1916.

Ernest Shaw



Shaw family collection

Ernest Shaw

The fourth brother Ernest was born in 1893. Shaw had not been working long in the family business and he volunteered. He was posted to the Royal Navy [battleship] *HMS Valiant* but never was more than an ordinary seaman in rank. He was on the *Valiant* at the battle of Jutland in 1916.

[In a letter home to his sister Elsie, a teacher at Delph Council School he writes:

"I suppose you have heard of the big naval battle that has just taken place in the North Sea and seen it in the papers that the Germans have had the best of it and that we have had more ships sunk than they have had. Well don't believe anything of the sort. The fleet went out from here on Tuesday May 30th about half-past ten in the evening...On Wednesday evening May 31st we got news that our fleet was in action and we had to get ready for receiving the wounded...We soon had all the deck one mass of beds...

Well there didn't anything happen until five minutes to five on Thursday night...thirteen men came on board our ship with just blankets wrapped around them - survivors of the *Queen Mary*...

We have had one petty officer in our mess from the *Invincible*. There were only six men saved out of twelve hundred men.³ He said that there came a hail of shells and split the ship straight in the middle."⁴

I can remember quite clearly that he was in hospital at Devonport, suffering from Rheumatic Fever and at Christmas my father (J.W.) took my grandmother to Plymouth to see him. He was very ill, but recovered and was sent to a convalescent

³ A local casualty was Harry Simms Hodgkinson, son of the sexton at St Johns, Hey: *MSR* 10 June 1916.

⁴ *ibid.*

hospital in the grounds of Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. The building is still there and is red brick building on the left hand side of the main drive, not far from the gates.

I do not know much more about him, until 1918. He was still on *HMS Valiant* and they were guarding the captured German Fleet in Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands.

On the day the Germans were to surrender they opened the sluices on their ships and scuttled themselves.

I had pictures of this and for posterity I sent them to the Maritime Museum at Greenwich. They were very pleased to have them.

[Although the *Valiant* was heavily involved in the battle of Jutland it was left to another Delph seaman, Harry Swann, serving on *HMS Neptune* to provide a more vivid account of the battle:⁵

“Torpedoes were as numerous as Aunt Sally balls at Saddleworth Wakes. They were here there and everywhere. One minute you were stood up the next you were down and the reason was the ship slewing around to escape a submarine. ...My oath! they did get a pounding. I saw about three on fire and the Belle Vue fireworks at their best could be but a poor imitation of that terrible fight. It was the most appalling and the grandest I ever saw.”]⁶

Seth Shaw



Shaw family collection

Seth Shaw

Seth Shaw the youngest son by 18 years was born in 1895. He was apprenticed to

⁵ The captain's detailed official report is at www.dreadnoughtproject.org.

⁶ Letter in the *MSR* 24 June 1916.

Clarence Cottrell the pharmacist in Delph Village. Very soon after the outbreak of war he completed his apprenticeship and volunteered the very next day. He found himself in the medical corps and was eventually posted to Salonica (Greece).

He worked with doctors and gained a good knowledge at a P.O. War hospital. Details are with his family: there were lots of 'snaps' because he was a keen photographer.

I can remember him coming home on compassionate leave when his Mother was dying of cancer. He was demobbed in August 1919, and I clearly remember the day.

He went to Manchester University on a refresher course, sat his MPS exams at Edinburgh and set up as the Pharmacist in the Delph shop, which is still in the same place.

It is from Seth Shaw that all the old glass slides of Delph came. They are now owned by Saddleworth Museum. He died in 1956.

James Shaw and Herbert Shaw did not serve in World War I

The two eldest brothers, my father James and his brother Herbert, did not serve in World War 1. You may perhaps like to know what became of them.

I can just remember that they were called to a tribunal at Halifax. My Grandfather (Charles Shaw) went with them, when asked how many sons he had he replied, "I have 5 sons and they are all A1." On the bench at that tribunal was Mr. A. J. Howcroft (father of Gilbert) the Saddleworth architect. He got up and said to the others, "Do not send these two men, they already have three brothers serving, and they are two good tradesmen." They were deferred but called again and would have been called up for active service, but the War was over before the time came.

As a family firm we were closely connected in business with three generations of Howcrofts.

DONALD HARDMAN DFC

Neil Barrow



www.theaerodrome.com

Donald Hardman DFC

James Donald Innes Hardman was born into a Waterhead mill-owning family on 21st December 1899. His father James and his uncle George worked Bangor mill. They came to live at Grove View in Delph soon after Donald's birth. Here they were neighbours of Donald's aunt Ann who had married Frederick W. Mallalieu of Larkhill in 1902.¹ Hardman spent much of his time away at boarding school: at prep school in Oxford, where the family had a house, and later at Malvern College.

Hardman joined the Artists' Rifles as a cadet in September 1916. It ran an Officers Training Corps at Romford, largely recruited from the public schools, which supplied other regiments with officers. Hardman's aim was to join the Royal Flying Corps (RFC). He secured a place at The School of Military Aeronautics in Oxford and was commissioned on 17th May 1917. He now trained at various flying schools and, delayed by his age, was posted to France, joining 19th Squadron, in March 1918. It had recently been re-equipped with Sopwith Dolphins which Hardman had not been taught to fly. He was immediately involved in the major German offensive, the Kaiserschlacht,

His first success in combat came in May. He describes operations:

"A fighter squadron consisted of three flights of six aircraft each. Every day weather permitting we did one or two offensive patrols of about 1½ hrs duration... These patrols consisted of flying at a height of anything up to 18,000ft over the [German] lines, seeking out enemy formations and trying to destroy them. When we met each other a dogfight ensued during which a lot of height would inevitably be lost and the

¹ J.P.W. Mallalieu *On Larkhill* (1983) pp. 9-17 gives an account of his cousin, Donald's, family.

fight, which would probably only last minutes, would be broken off because there was no more room for manoeuvre...

Our usual height was 16 to 18,000ft, the higher the better from the tactical point of view but we had no oxygen & it was bitterly cold in open cockpit in winter...we rubbed blubber oil on every time but you got frost bitten through the blubber oil.

...The tactics of dogfighting consisted simply of getting on your opponent's tail as close to him as possible thus getting a sitting shot at him: that is one not requiring any deflection or aiming off."

During one fight he recalls an innovation which the RFC lacked:

"...I was in a fight and well, I certainly got the aircraft because to my absolute astonishment a parachute came out of it. I couldn't believe it. There was man coming down in a parachute."²

In an action on 30th October Hardman, now a Flight Commander, was escorting DH9B bombers to targets near Mons. They were intercepted by thirty to forty German Fokkers forcing the DH9Bs to return home. In the ensuing battle heavy losses were sustained:

"I got back with only two other aircraft in my flight. I remember glancing back when we were in no man's land and seeing the line of the Mons-Conde canal strewn with burning aircraft. It was the only time that I remembered running out of ammunition, but I was lucky enough to shoot down two aircraft which brought my score up to eight."³

For his action he was awarded a DFC. The citation reads:

A bold and courageous officer who has shown most praiseworthy devotion to duty, both in the March retreat and during the more recent operations. On 30th October, while escorting a bombing raid, he, with his flight, encountered some 40 enemy machines. In the combat that ensued he shot down two, and it was mainly due to his cool judgement and skill in leading that the flight inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, destroying five machines and driving down another out of control. In all, this officer has seven hostile aircraft to his credit - destroyed or driven down out of control.⁴

He avoided serious injury during the War but after the Armistice he was taken down with "German 'flu" and "...as I was also suffering from what was called 'flying sickness' or fatigue I was sent home to [hospital in] England on 18th November."

After the War Hardman studied at Oxford and rejoined the RAF in 1921. He had a long and distinguished career and in 1952, he was appointed Chief of the Air Staff of the Royal Australian Air Force. He retired in 1958 as Air Chief Marshall and died in 1982.⁵

² Brotherton Library, Leeds University, Liddle collection:WWI/AIR/148

³ *ibid.* Hardman's score is unclear. There are actually nine detailed at <http://www.theaerodrome.com/aces/england/hardman.php>.

⁴ *Supplement to the Edinburgh Gazette*, 11 February 1919, p. 798.

⁵ His career is outlined in John McCarthy, 'Hardman, Sir James Donald Innes (1899–1982)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, available at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardman-sir-james-donald-innes-12591/text22677>.

GEORGE BENT BUCKLEY

Neil Barrow

George Bent Buckley was born 1885 the third son of Arthur and Jane Buckley a member of the prominent Buckley family of Tunstead. His father was a prosperous solicitor in Manchester who left £89,867 when he died in 1913.¹ The household had three servants and George was educated at boarding school.² After school he trained as a doctor. Qualifying in 1912 he worked at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) initially as house surgeon. Then, in February 1914 he became an accident room house senior surgeon.³

As a surgeon Buckley's services were recognised as being important on the Home Front especially as the MRI was providing upwards of 300 beds for wounded soldiers. However by Spring of 1915 the War Office was seeking recruits and on 1st December 1915 he was commissioned as a temporary lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps becoming attached to the 15th/Bn Hampshire regiment.⁴

The regiment fought in the third Somme offensive in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette which began on 15th September 1916. The battalion suffered 292 casualties on the first day alone.⁵ Buckley was himself a casualty on that day. He was awarded a MC for the work he carried out. The citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He tended and dressed the wounded under very heavy fire, displaying great courage and determination. He was wounded.⁶

Buckley was sent to the Sommerville Hospital in Oxford.

Returning to duty Buckley was promoted to captain. The German army, able to use divisions released by the collapse of the Eastern Front, began its major offensive, the Kaiserschlacht, on 21st March 1918. It was, initially, highly successful. Buckley was serving on the front to the south of St Quentin. The Kings Royal Rifle Corps bore the brunt of the offensive, on the first day, defending Urvilliers and it was here that Buckley was taken prisoner.⁷ After his capture Buckley was held in the Limburg camp, the Dulmen camp and finally the Rennbahn, Munster II camp.⁸ Upon his repatriation, like other officers, he was required to account for his capture. He was investigated and formally exonerated: "...the [Army] Council considers no blame attaches to him in the matter."⁹ He was now able to receive his campaign medals.

¹ England & Wales National Probate Calendar Index of Wills 1913, at www.ancestry.co.uk.

² The National Archives, Census Returns of England and Wales, at www.ancestry.co.uk.

³ The University of Manchester Library, Manchester Medical Collection (MMC), MMC/2/BUCKLEYGB/1/2.

⁴ *Supplement to the London Gazette*, 23 December 1915, p. 12804.

⁵ Andrew McEwen, "A useful accessory to the infantry, but nothing more" Tanks at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette,... September 1916, www.canadianmilitaryhistory.ca.

⁶ *Supplement to the London Gazette*, 27 November 1916, p. 2195.

⁷ 21 March 1918: the Battle of Saint-Quentin, day 1, The Long Tail, <http://www.1914-1918.net/bat22-1.html>.

⁸ International Committee of the Red Cross, POW records, at <http://grandeguerre.icrc.org>.

⁹ Letter from the War Office, MMC/2/BUCKLEYGB/1/9.

After the war he went to live with his mother in Clarence Park, Weston-super-mare. He became a celebrated historian and authority on the early days of cricket¹⁰ and also assisted his brother Francis' researches, particularly into clock makers. He died in 1962.



Pictor family collection

George (left) with his brother Francis

¹⁰ He wrote *Fresh light on 18th century cricket*, (Birmingham 1935) and *Fresh Light on pre-Victorian Cricket*, (Birmingham 1937).

A SADDLEWORTH FAMILY'S EXPERIENCES OF WWI

Jean Singleton

My great-grandparents, David and Mary Bax and their three young children originated from the Dorking area of Surrey, coming first to Pudsey, Yorkshire and then on to Saddleworth in about 1874/75. They lived at Brownhill Bar, Dobcross, then at various addresses in Uppermill and finally No. 9 Wade Row. The family had twelve children in all, losing four in infancy and two sons during the Great War, within a month of each other, during the Battle of the Somme, in France in 1916. Their mother died suddenly a year almost to the day of her second son's death; it was said of a 'broken heart' on 13th October 1917, aged sixty-nine.

Private Frank Bax, service no. 28922 D Company 13th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, enlisted at Halifax. He was called up in May 1916 and went over to France in August 1916. He died of shrapnel wounds received some two weeks earlier during the Battle of the Somme, on 30th September 1916, aged twenty-five. He is buried at Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel, France.

Frank worked as an overlooker at Victoria Mill, High Street, Uppermill (now Saddleworth Museum) and lived with his parents. He was a bell ringer at Saddleworth Church and was engaged to be married to Elsie Roberts also of Uppermill prior to his Army service.

Gordon also lived with his parents and worked as a spinner at Messrs Buckley, Kinders Mill, Greenfield. He enlisted at Halifax becoming private Gordon Bax, 32199 2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own). He was killed in action on 28th October 1916, the same day that his parents were receiving the £7.00 funeral expenses from the Saddleworth Friendly Burial Society for his brother.¹ Mr and Mrs Bax of Wade Row



Singleton family collection

Frank Bax

¹ Annual Report, Saddleworth Museum Archives, M/GX/SF/2.16.

Uppermill were officially notified that their son Private Gordon Bax has been missing from the West Yorkshire Regiment since October 28th 1916. He was aged twenty-seven. His last letter home was dated October 23rd and told his parents he was all right and he also thanked the Red Cross workers for their acceptable presents. His death was later confirmed from the War Office.

Gordon had no known grave as an Australian comrade took his pay book and identity tag and sent them to Gordon's sister Kate. He had got her address from a letter she had sent to Gordon, which he was carrying with him.

He is one of 73,000 soldiers named on the Thiepval Memorial in France. He and Frank are also on the Pots and Pans memorial and that within St Chad's church.

In his eightieth year David Bax, father of Frank and Gordon, having two sons killed in action, was selected by the local branch of the British Legion to lay the wreath on Pots & Pans War Memorial, in November, but was prevented from doing so by his serious illness. David was known to almost everyone in the District.

The elder Bax brothers escaped War service.

James, the eldest son, had emigrated with his wife Clara to America to the textile town of Lovell, Massachusetts, before 1908.² Thomas, Fred and Edwin were living in Saddleworth.

The Military Service Act authorising conscription came in force in March 1916 and was extended to married men in May.

Thomas was thirty-nine at the start of the War and so would have been exempt. He was married and living in Diggle working as a gas meter inspector.

Fred was born in 1881 and was a painter and decorator living on New Street, Uppermill. His first wife had died and in 1915 he remarried, to Amy Lawton. He appeared before the Tribunal in January 1917 and his case was adjourned for production of Medical Inspection Certificate. He reappeared next month and said, "He had been rejected but could not get a certificate". Mr Quarmby said he had seen the rejection card and all was right.³

Edwin was born in 1883 and married Martha Brown in 1906. They lived near his parents on Wade Row and he was a cotton mill worker. He does not seem to have been called before the Tribunal.

George Arthur, born in 1885, was unmarried and therefore liable for conscription. He was granted three months exemption in March 1917 and it was noted that he was medically category B1 and had had two brothers killed. He worked as a coremaker at Messrs Hutchinson and Hollingworth Loomworks, Dobcross and reappearing before the Tribunal in June his employers appealed on his behalf: he had domestic claims and a three month certificate had already been granted. The claim was disallowed.⁴ He survived the war and died in 1951.

² Report of the wedding of Thomas to Jane Bradbury, *Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter*, 13 June 1908.

³ *Oldham Chronicle*, 28 December 1916 & 27 January 1917.

⁴ *Oldham Chronicle*, 3 March 1917 & 30 June 1917.



Singleton family collection

Gordon Bax (second row up, far right)



David JW Harrison 2014

Uppermill War Memorial

