

Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin



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**Cover Illustration:
Springhead 1939-45 Plaque, Pots and Pans War Memorial**

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GUNNER 950713 ‘THE MISSING YEARS’

The story of Herbert Schofield’s war experiences 1940-1945

Alan Schofield

In common with many returning soldiers from World War II Bert Schofield, my dad, was reluctant to discuss his experiences during the war. Presumably the horrors were deliberately put out of mind and the hardships were not to be relived. It was therefore a subject rarely mentioned as I grew up and Hilda, my mum, only knew the bare outlines and shared these along with a few war-time artefacts.

This rather factual account requires the reader to pause from time to time and imagine the feelings that the traumatic situations would have provoked. This then is the story as far as I able to tell it of **‘The Missing Years’**.

Herbert (Bert) Schofield was born 23 July 1917 in the farm cottages at High Cross, Uppermill. He was the youngest of eleven children. Father Joseph, a cotton piecer, died suddenly in 1919 and his mother Christiana, a domestic servant from Barnsley died in 1927. The family was kept together by the older sisters, particularly Lucy and Esther. Being without parents the family home had been wherever rented accommodation could be had, Platt Lane Farm and Tamewater in Dobcross, Court Street and New Street, Uppermill and latterly Abels Lane off Church Road, Uppermill. The Methodist Church in Uppermill was always a central part of life for the brothers and sisters.



Schofield family papers (SFP)

Brothers and Sisters, c1927

L to R: Lucy, Esther, Fred, Frank, Bert, Doris, and Lottie

Little is known of his childhood. There are obviously strong family ties that are to last all his life and family traditions that we still enjoy today. Bert attended the new Council school in Uppermill. There are the odd photographs of days at the seaside and a football team photograph, tales of sledging on Lark Hill, gathering water from the well to take home to Platt Hill, a football cup won with Greenfield Mill, a book label showing that he had joined the temperance movement and a host of friends that village lads had in those days.¹



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Snappy Dresser
Bert at Morecambe, Wakes Week? 1935 aged 18

On 23 October 1939 Bert married Hilda Wood, the daughter of John Willie Wood, goods yard shunter at Diggle. Hilda had always lived next-door-but-one to the family home, staying on when the family moved to Luddenfoot. So married life began living with Booth Dearnley at Grove Cottages. According to Hilda, Bert did not like this arrangement at all.



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Grove Cottages

¹ Schofield Family Papers.

Spring 1940, Duty calls

Bert worked as an assistant slitterman at Robert Fletcher and Son, Greenfield Mill, specialist paper makers. Paper making was to have the status of protected work in the war. Bert travelled by bike to work each day for the 6 to 2 early shift. During a large snow fall in February 1940 he stayed with his sister Lottie in Greenfield. That very week at Harrop Court Hilda received call up papers for Herbert Schofield. Bert was given the news by Co-op telephone, members could use their telephone in those days.

Hilda says that Bert thought it was his duty to enlist. Having passed his medical, A1, in Manchester, he returned to say that he had been accepted in the Royal Artillery. So at the age of twenty-two he joined up in Oldham on 5 March 1940.² Hilda reminisced that at that poignant moment in their young lives they went up Ridge Lane to the Standedge in the snow “walking on the wall tops with icicles tingling in the wind”.

Reporting for duty in April 1940 Bert was sent to Tarporley, Cheshire, for his first taste of army life. His Soldier's Service and Pay Book informs us that he was assigned to 88th Training Regiment, 135 Battery, C wing, O Squad.

In the early days wives could visit the soldiers in training so Hilda set off to Chester



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Soldier's Service and Pay Book

one Saturday. They went to the pictures and after a meal they went to their lodgings. The hosts were a young couple who were part of a local scheme providing lodgings for visiting wives. In the morning Bert had to report to camp for church parade and returned after lunch. Teatime saw Hilda returning by train to Manchester. As she was boarding the train to Diggle, the air raid warning sounded and all the lights were turned off.

Artillery training took place at Sennybridge in the Brecon Beacons. The usual injections, tetanus toxoid (TT) and typhoid and para typhoid A/B vaccine were administered. Later he was to go to Bishop Auckland, drill training was with brush stales instead of rifles. When he received a rifle he noted the number in pencil on his Service Book X28654 No4 MK1 Bolt.³

Hilda had expected to visit him in the north east. The promised directions failed to arrive. In April 1941 she received a post card from Bert with the secret code 1 on it, which meant that they had set off from these shores, 2 meant that they were refuelling at some point in the world and 3 meant that they had arrived at the unspecified destination.

² Schofield Family Papers.

³ Schofield Family Papers.

In the early war years Hilda was employed at Frederick Smith's near Strangeways, Manchester. The Yorkshire firm produced copper wire and was later absorbed into the London Electric Wire Company. Bert was unhappy about her working in Manchester due to the threat to life from bombing and tried to persuade her to leave her job. The company would not let anyone leave as it was war work. Hilda eventually got herself dismissed and obtained a job at Hervey Rhodes' finishing mill at Harrop Court, within sight of home.

Harrop Court was near the entrance to the Standedge railway tunnels protected by soldiers stationed in the platform waiting rooms. When challenged "Halt who goes there?" Mum would reply "It's Hilda". Her war effort included being a fire control warden in the event of a bomb landing. Not a difficult job, no bombs landed in Diggle and the Foundry (Dobcross Loom Works) air raid warning siren was only heard in Harrop Court when the wind was in the right direction.

June 1940 – May 1943, The North Africa Campaign

Bert's Territorial Army Record of Service shows that he was in The Middle East on 1 August 1941.⁴ Gunner 950713 and his pals must have asked the same question I asked when writing this account. Why was an Uppermill lad who signed up to defend Britain from the Germans now in the hot desert of North Africa? It was the private soldier's lot to know only his own job. He held one jigsaw piece, knew what it felt and looked like, but its relationship with the whole puzzle was not his concern. For him it was only after the war that the pieces came together to create the picture that the national leaders were working towards at the time.

North Africa was split into different colonial territories, British, French, and significantly, Italian in Libya, Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia. The Suez Canal in eastern Egypt was a life-line for Britain and the Allies, connecting the Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean, providing a shorter route for Commonwealth food supplies, military reinforcements and resources. The Middle East, east of the Mediterranean, provided the oil vital to the Allies war effort and the target for the Axis Africa campaign.

The Italians, later commanded by the German Rommel, drove the British and Commonwealth forces backwards to within 180 miles of Alexandria in a series of attacks whilst themselves being driven by the Allies forces east along the coast to beyond Benghazi; Tobruk changing hands several times. The Allies attacked the Italian Colonies of Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia.⁵

Ninety miles west of Alexandria, at El Alamein in October 1942 the decisive battle of the North Africa Campaign was fought. General Montgomery on a forty mile front with 150,000 men (British, New Zealanders, South Africans and Australians), 2,182 pieces of artillery, 500 fighter aircraft, 200 bombers and a 1000 tanks including American Shermans, fought a 5 day battle driving the Italian and German forces into retreat. The Italian and German forces lost 2,300 killed and 27,900 taken prisoner. The relentless battle in the Western Desert continued until 19 May 1943 when the Allies eventually captured Tunisia.⁶

August 1941, Gunner 950713 In Action

Leaving England in April 1941 Bert arrived in The Middle East in August possibly having refuelled at Cape Town.⁷ I remember him telling me that they had

⁴ Territorial Army Record of Service SFP.

⁵ M. Gilbert, *Second World War*, Fontana 1990, p. 136-426.

⁶ Gilbert, pp. 371-2 and 426.

⁷ Schofield Family Papers.

disembarked ship far south of the intended destination, perhaps on the Red Sea, then walked north to the desert. By August the Enigma machine was decoding Italian supply plans giving the Allies the edge in North Africa. In November Operation Crusader forced Rommel's Axis troops back into Libya and relieved the siege of Tobruk.⁸ Bert would most likely have been part of this advance as part of an anti-tank field gun team.



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Santa on a Camel

"From your Hubby Bert and Palls. [sic] M.E.F. Gunner
950713 B.Bty. 73rd A/Tank Regt. R.A."

Diggle Christmas 1941

Hilda received the standard Christmas Greetings card dated Nov. 2 1941.⁹ She told me of a dream that she had in late autumn of 1941. The dream was of an injury to a family member. Shortly afterwards she received a telephone call at work saying that her father, John Willie, had suffered a railway accident. Over Christmas Booth Dearnley was away for a few days and Hilda was on her own. Boxing Day was a working day and whilst at home for dinner she received the telegram that said Bert was missing in action. So the dream was not about her father. Bert was later declared a Prisoner of War in Italian hands.

⁷ Schofield Family Papers.

⁸ M. Gilbert, *Second World War*, Fontana 1990, p. 218, 259 and 265.

⁹ Schofield Family Papers.

December 1941, North Africa, Capture, Transportation

After the war Bert told Hilda how he had been captured. The field gun was hit, one of the crew was killed and Bert and another man were injured. The wounded were put into a lorry and driven away from the action. Bert had blast injuries to his feet and was unable to walk. During the night the wounded were put under the lorry for fear of attack. When Bert woke up the lorry and everybody else had gone.

We can only imagine what went through his mind, almost it seems, left for dead. Hearing voices, he crawled towards them and found that they belonged to the Italian soldiers. Gunner 950713 was now a POW. His Territorial Army Record of Service shows that he was wounded in both legs and reported missing in the Western Desert Egypt. On December 5 1941 after 126 days of action he was reported as an Italian Prisoner of War.

**WOUNDED
AND MISSING**

Gunner H. Schofield, Grove Cottages, Diggle, has been officially reported wounded and missing. He was serving in the Middle East. A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. Schofield, Uppermill, he was 24 years of age and was married. He joined the Army two years ago. Previous to that he was employed at Messrs. Robert Fletcher and Sons, Greenfield, and was closely associated with Uppermill Methodist Church. He played football with the Greenfield Mill football team, and had a wide circle of friends.



Saddleworth and Mossley Reporter, SFP

Wounded and Missing

Army Form B. 104—83A.

No. _____
(If replying, please quote
above No.)

REPLY TO THIS CORRESPONDENCE
MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE
O.C. ROYAL ARTILLERY RECORDS
AND NOT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL.



SIR OR MADAM,

I have to inform you that a report has been received
from the War Office to the effect that (No.) 950713
(Rank) Gnr. (Name) SCHOFIELD Herbert
(Regiment) 73rd. Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery
is a Prisoner of War in Italian Hands
camp unknown

Should any other information be received concerning him, such
information will be at once communicated to you.

Instructions as to the method of communicating with Prisoners of
War can be obtained at any Post Office.

Mrs. H Schofield,
Grove Cottages,
Diggle,
Near Oldham,
Lancs

I am,
SIR OR MADAM,
Your obedient Servant,
[Signature]
for Officer in charge of Records. *Major*

IMPORTANT.—Any change of your address should be immediately notified to this
Office. It should also be notified, if you receive information from the soldier above, that
his address has been changed.

W1.30241/1230 SOOM. 9/39. EJT/8818 Gp.598/3 Form B.104—83A/5

SFP

Notice of capture

Wounded, Missing and Prisoner of War

Life as a POW is well documented and we can piece together accounts from other prisoners to give a realistic story of Bert's experiences. Not least of these accounts is that of Gilbert Broadbent,¹⁰ (hereafter Gilbert) a lad from Uppermill that Bert knew, who records meeting him in POW camps at Benghazi and later in Italy. They follow roughly the same route through the next two years and Gilbert's account will mirror Bert's experiences. Gilbert was also in the Royal Artillery and was captured at Sidi Rezegh in the battle to relieve the siege of Tobruk. POWs were transported by lorry

¹⁰ Gilbert Broadbent, *Behind Enemy Lines*, Anchor, Bognor Regis 1985.

through transit camps to Benghazi. Transit camps were protected by barbed wire and machine guns. Food was minimal. British officers took names and passed them onto an American war correspondent for transmission to the UK.

It was in Benghazi that Gilbert records meeting Herbert 'from his home village' on 11 December 1941. Five to six days after capture Herbert arrived with a small group of twenty or so men. He was later to tell of how he had a pair of German boots taken off him by his captors, which presumably he had obtained after injuries to his feet. Perhaps it was here that this happened? Benghazi was recaptured by the Allies on Christmas Day 1941. Bert's Christmas was unfortunately in Tripoli having sailed from Benghazi on 1 December. The recognized route to Italy from Benghazi was west along the African coast to Tripoli, across the Mediterranean to the west of Sicily to mainland Italy, a two day journey crammed into the hold. Bert arrived in an unnamed POW camp in Rome on 1 February 1942. He was shortly transferred by train to Campo PG 66 Capua, near Naples.¹¹

The Geneva Convention (1929)

Prisoners of War and wounded civilians were, and still are, protected by agreements such as the Hague (1927) and Geneva (1929) Conventions to ascertain certain rights of POWs. Article 2 1929 states that 'POWs should at all times be humanely treated and protected against acts of violence'.¹² POWs' experiences show that the Conventions were not always adhered to.

Campo PG 66 Capua, Naples was another transit camp with an open-air barbed wire enclosure with huts for night time shelter only. There were 2,000 men for several weeks in ankle deep mud. Clothing was issued to make up for shortages including two pieces of cloth for socks.

Again but separately Bert and Gilbert were on the move, this time to a permanent camp, travelling for 13 hours by train to Porto San Giorgio on the Adriatic coast and by electric train up the Tenna Valley from the coast into hills.¹³ Bert arrived sometime in the spring at Campo PG 59 Servigliano.

1942 Italy Campo PG 59 Servigliano

Built during WWI and later used in the Spanish Civil War Campo PG 59 was reopened in January 1941 as a POW camp for up to 5,000 prisoners of various nationalities, Greeks, Cypriots, English, American, French and Slavs. Little remains today just some of the perimeter walls topped by shards of broken glass. The locals have created a House of remembrance.¹⁴

According to the Geneva Convention Article 36 POWs were allowed to send one post card and one letter card per week and that correspondence could be censored (Article 40) and sometimes marked in red ink, some would not be delivered if they included war news or comments on camp conditions. Two postcards and one letter sent by Bert from Campo PG 59 survive. The postcards, dated 11 March 1942 and 28 May 1942, are to his sister Lottie in Greenfield. It seems that he wrote to all his sisters in turn. Bert refers to the censors in his comment about Lucy's letter. In the first postcard to Lottie he said 'I never thought to see the inside of a prison camp' and added that the Red Cross would deliver 'If you wish to a parcel of food stuff.' Article 37.¹⁵

¹¹ Territorial Army Record of Service, SFP.

¹² International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC) Geneva Convention 1929.

¹³ Broadbent, pp. 38-41.

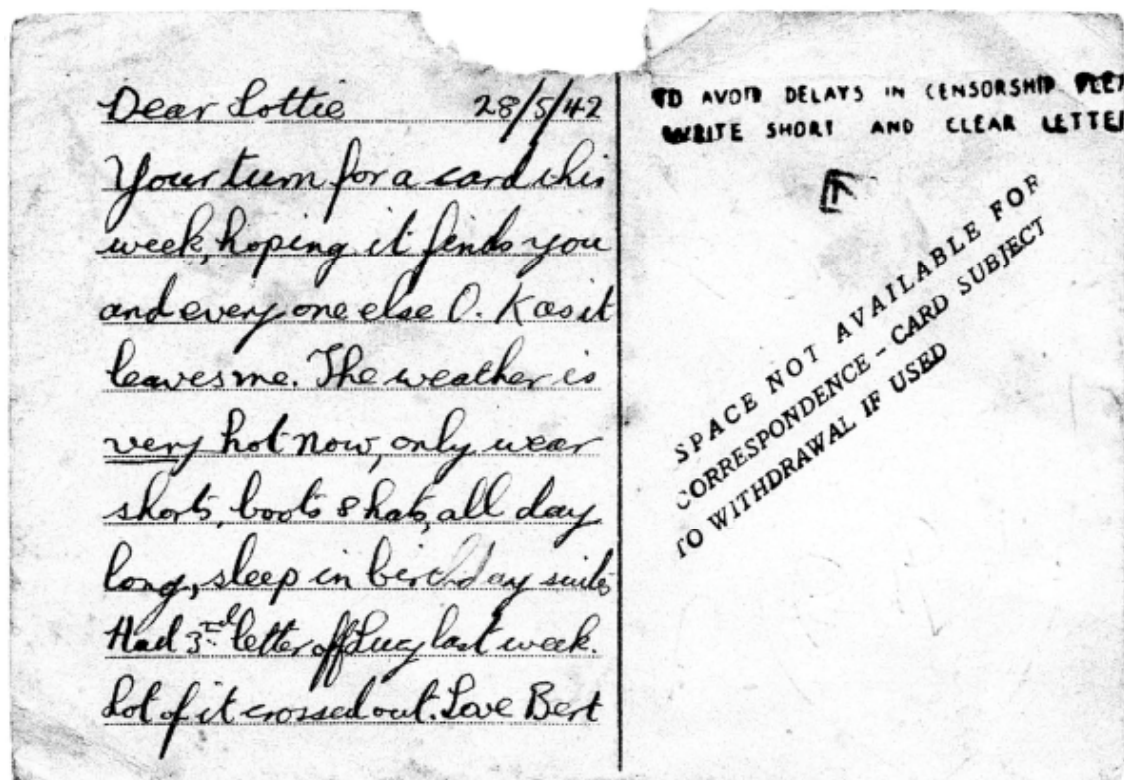
¹⁴ www.casadellamemoria.org/historycamp.

¹⁵ ICRC Geneva Convention.



www.casadellamemoria.org/historycamp

Campo PG 59 Servigliano



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Post card from Bert to Lottie

No 18- 11/10/42
10/12/42

Dear Hilda

Mammy thanks dear for your letter of 29/9/42 rec. Dec. 5/42 also had one from Fred's wife Annie rec. same day and a card from your Charlie also received Dec. 5. sent Augt. 21/42. Please thank him for me as I can't answer him from here, have you heard from him recently and is he keeping well. Hope every one at home are O.K as Gilbert Frank & I are and we are looking forward to Christmas and an early home coming. I suppose you have been to your Mother's for Christmas and hope you had a nice time. Find enclosed a photo of self taken early 1942 after 11 months a prisoner. Hope you like it, but don't let looks deceive you I'm quite O.K and well. Tell Annie that I have not rec. any socks from the Bung Bees which she says have been sent, but will let her know when I do. She says Fred is "browned off", tell him to fence a sq. mile of ground off & then walk round inside for 12 months, see if that make him more cheery as that is all we do. The pipe will be very welcome no matter what it is like don't worry. Lucy told me Stuart Robinson was a prisoner. Weather still good. Cheers Ho!. Love Bert.

SFP

Censored Letter

Bert's letter to Hilda is dated 11 October 1942. Brother-in-law Charlie is also a POW. There is a sense of exasperation in his response about brother Fred being 'browned off'. Bert refers to Gilbert and to Frank (Shelmerdine), both from Uppermill.

Photographs were taken and sold to the POWs to send home. This is dated Nov. 1942 and Bert makes the comment about being in captivity for eleven months.



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Bert as POW, November 1942

Life at Campo 59 is described in detail by Gilbert.¹⁶ The compound enclosed by high walls was monitored by sentries, lights and night patrols. Home was one of the twenty huts and a bunk bed your personal domain. All new arrivals were quizzed about the Allies' progress. Conditions in the mountains meant cold winters with deep snow whilst summers brought sweltering heat and swarms of flies. Infections and lice were common and not helped by the lack of frequent showers.

Food rations were an early morning 'coffee', mid-morning two small dry bread loaves and a taste of cheese, mid-day a thin soup, dinner was two ladles of macaroni or rice with a few vegetables and an odd piece of meat on meat days.¹⁷ As the war wore on, portions were reduced, malnutrition became more prevalent. Bunk beds often provided firewood for cooking. The 1 lira per day 'pay' would buy extras at the camp canteen either food such as fruit or personal requirements.

The arrival of Red Cross parcels, one per person per week, was a highlight but they were subject to delays, pilfering or withheld as punishment. Parcels included meat in various forms, dairy products, sugar, tea, chocolate condiments, syrup and Nestlé's Milk, and 'klim' (powdered milk). Clothing parcels contained small personal items,

¹⁶ Broadbent, p. 40-65, 88-117.

¹⁷ Charles Rollings, *Charles Prisoner of War: Voices from behind the Wire in the Second World War*, Edbury Press 2008, pp. 151-2.

toiletries and battledresses, shirts and so on. Civilian clothing was not allowed as this provided materials for escapes. Bert's correspondence indicated he received parcels from his family. 20 million parcels costing £4.5 million were sent during the war. The Swiss Legation frequently complained to the authorities about Convention infringements.¹⁸

Lt Col William Stephens, a POW in March 1942, expressed the feelings of many POWs when he wrote:

'Boredom is one of the things from which one suffers most of all. Each day is the same as the preceding one, one lives for mail and food'.¹⁹ A sentiment implied in Bert's letter.

The Geneva Convention Article 27 allowed privates and NCOs to be made to work for extra pay. This could be inside the camp using their trades, whilst others were on out of camp work parties or the unpleasant fatigue duty. Bert, Gilbert and Frank spent many hours along with lads from Oldham reminiscing about life before the war. Their lives became more bearable because of their collective comradeship. Bert mentions walking round the compound as a means of whiling away the hours. Self preservation was the name of the game.

First duty of the day at 10am was a 15 minute check parade in front of each hut. On Sundays there were Church services and Mass. Male voice choirs and community singing contributed to spiritual life of the camp. Just as portrayed in the many post-war films the prisoners developed every activity under the sun to entertain themselves and to keep the mind and spirit healthy. Some kept themselves to themselves. The list of activities is endless.

Lectures and education classes on any topic from battleships to magnetism and arithmetic to shorthand. Concert parties performed with YMCA instruments and dresses provided by the commandant.²⁰ Drama ranged from Shakespeare to pantomimes. I wonder if Bert took part in the pantomimes as he took up amateur dramatics after the war. Carnivals and fairground side shows helped to spend the hours both in preparation and the execution. Competitive sports, of all kinds, some adapted according to fitness and stamina with international and league competitions. Individuals occupied themselves with art diaries, embroidery, knitting, treen or inventing making contraptions such to brew tea the quickest. Italian radio broadcasts were relayed into camp and illicit radios and camp newspapers kept prisoners informed.

Escape tunnels were dug from under the huts on a couple of occasions and eleven men escaped only to be recaptured.²¹ Gilbert later returned to England after the Italian capitulation and went to see Hilda. He said that Bert had been in on the tunnelling but had not been drawn to escape. He added that Bert would be OK since he was used to fending for himself.

Article 54 allowed sanctions and imprisonment for offences such as out of the hut at night, making a noise or playing games after curfew, assaulting or making offensive remarks to guards.

Christmas 1942 was celebrated with food parcels, decorations from all sorts of scraps, Holy Communion, a concert, community singing, a performance of the Messiah and a

¹⁸ Broadbent, p 43, 49 and p. 88.

¹⁹ Rollings, p 149.

²⁰ Broadbent, pp. 108 and 114.

²¹ Broadbent, pp. 61 and 105.

message from the Queen.²² Hogmanay was celebrated with Scots Guardsmen in the camp. In the New Year an influx of American prisoners prompted the Italians to move POWs including Bert and Gilbert to Campo PG 53. Bert received a letter at Campo PG 53 dated 31 March 1943.²³ This camp was about 12 miles further north near the small town of Sforzacosta. When Italy capitulates Gilbert is liberated from Campo 53 in September 1943 and some nine months later reaches the British in Rome.²⁴ Certainly whilst Bert is at Campo PG 53 he would hear of the success in North Africa and the landings in Italy. The resulting increase in movement of POWs away from the British advance meant that camps became over loaded.

Bert was moved yet again to Campo PG 120 Padua near Venice where he received a letter dated 22 July 1943.²⁵ The camps that Bert spent time in range across half of Italy.

September 1943, Italian Capitulation and Escape

The defeat in North Africa on 9 May 1943 allowed British forces to use Africa as a launch pad, bombing Milan, Turin, and Genoa. The Fascist Grand Council in Italy, replaced Mussolini in July 1943 bringing back King Victor Emmanuel who along with Marshal Badoglio continue to support Germany and the Axis powers. By 17 August 1943 Sicily was under Allied control and after landing on the mainland the Armistice with Italy was signed on 3 September 3rd 1943.

Hitler ordered the occupation of Italy and the Axis forces entered Rome. The Royal Family and Marshal Badoglio set up an anti-fascist Government in Brindisi declaring war with Germany on 13 October 1943. Arrangements were made on the ground to welcome escaping prisoners to the Allies' lines. The Allies were 90 miles from Rome when they are held up by the battle for Monte Cassino Ridge lasting until 18 May 1944.

In September 1943 when Italy capitulated the official orders were for the British POWs to remain in camp expecting the Germans to withdraw, the opposite happened. The result was that POWs left the camps and set off south to meet the advancing British troops. Around 1,000 Allied POWs were united with the Allies.

A reward of 1,800 lira was offered for information on escaped prisoners. Fascists and Nazis combed the area around camps searching for freed prisoners and for Jews. Many hundreds of families continued to help the allied prisoners and the Jews. Italians who were caught helping were tortured, men killed, wives sent to concentration camps, farms burnt to the ground and cattle killed.²⁶

Bert left the camp and was sheltered by Italian families in the Appennini Mountains.

We don't know who they were nor what befell them when the Germans found Bert hiding in a farmhouse attic suffering from malaria, unable to escape. We can only be thankful for their spontaneous gesture of humanity.

Germany removed 50,000 allied POWs from Italy along with 268,000 Italian POWs.²⁷

Bert's record shows that he was transported from Italy to Germany on 23 November 1943. Amongst Bert's possessions at the end of the war was an Ave Marie prayer.

²² Broadbent, pp. 111-113.

²³ Schofield Family papers.

²⁴ Broadbent, p. 177.

²⁵ Territorial Army Record of Service, SFP.

²⁶ www.conscript-heroes.co/escapelines

²⁷ Gilbert, p. 460.

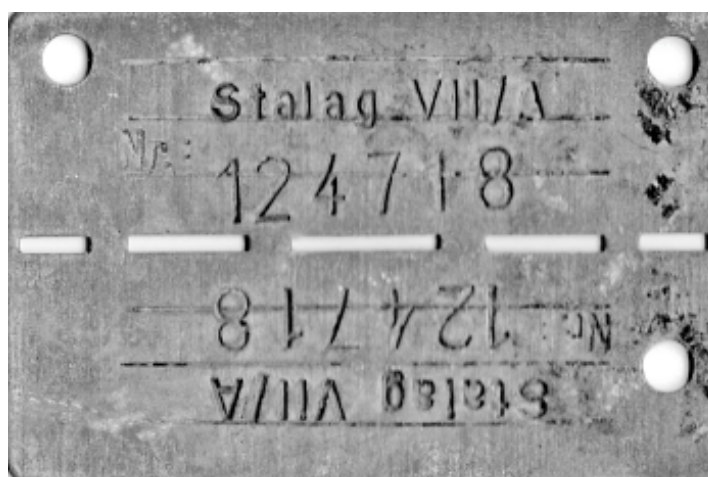
We are left to wonder if this was given to him by his Italian protectors.



SFP

Prayer Card

Bert receives a letter in November 1943 at Stalag VIIA, Moosburg, near Munich.²⁸ Interestingly his war record shows his POW number as 124715 whilst the dog tag he brought home is 124718!



SFP

Keepsake Dog tag Stalag VIIA Moosburg Germany

²⁸ Territorial Army Record of Service, SFP. Extensive information about the camp can be found at: Moosburg On Line: POW camp Stalag VII A: <https://www.moosburg.org/info/stalag/indeng.html>.



SFP

Stalag VIIA Gates and Watchtower



SFP

Freed

In 1945 at the end of the war Stalag VIIA had 2,000 guards and administrative staff caring for 80,000 prisoners and 8,000 guards on outside work duty. Prisoners who worked outside the camp were paid in Reichsmarks and allowed to spend in Moosberg shops.²⁹ Bert told Hilda whilst in Germany he was given food by two Scottish girls whose family were not allowed to leave Germany once the War had started. The girls gave food to the men marching at the back on work parties, a position Bert tried to be in. Hilda says he wrote to them on a few occasions after the war. His Ave Maria has a piece of exercise book paper with names and addresses in German tucked inside. Were these names of people who helped him in some way, perhaps the address he wrote to?



SFP

Bert 28 January 1944 Stalag VIIA

On 8 May 1945 Germany surrendered.

Craftsman Maurice Newey recounts the increasing excitement as American Forces near the camp and how the inmates celebrated liberation on 10 May 1945 with a feast cooked on open fires and hot water showers.

Lt A.T. Powell recalls that some ex-POWs went out to loot the local town.³⁰

²⁹ www.pegasusarchives.org/pow .

³⁰ Rollings, pp. 318 and 324.

Hurrah!

Bert had been captive for 3 years 156 days and one can imagine the urge to return home. M19 were to debrief all liberated soldiers many of whom saw this as a delay and completed forms in a less than professional manner. Some soldiers instead of waiting for official transport made their own way home. Everybody was deloused but then movement out of the camp was slow. 13,000 Allied POWs were flown by American and Canadian planes, first to Rheims and then on to Britain.³¹

What P.D. 108 4.23.545 Rec 31-5-45	Released by Allied forces. Air U.K.	GNR	10-5-45	<i>S.H. Jabs</i> RECORD OFFICER R.A. RECORDS (FIELD BRANCH)
--	--	-----	---------	--

Bert was flown to England arriving on 23 May 1945.³² Based at Sidcup in Kent he was granted a series of periods of leave until finally released in July 1946 when he was transferred to the Reserve List!

15/40	73rd Med Regt. RA	Posted 73rd Medium Regiment. R.A.	Gnr	3/3/40	<i>I. J. W. Major R.A.</i>
<i>ECH/c/16106</i>	73 med	Wounded in action Egypt. wounds both legs	W.D.		73RD MEDIUM REGIMENT, R.A.
<i>ECH/c/18090</i>	- " -	Reported missing known to be wounded.	Gnr.	5.12.41.	<i>M. J. Murphy to RA for o/c R.A. Records</i>
<i>S.B. 1838 of 1.2.42.</i>		Prisoner of War.	- " -	unknown.	<i>W. J. B.</i>
<i>1.0.6. 4/7/44</i>		Rome Camp Unknown			
<i>1.0.6. 4/8/41.</i>		P.O.W. Concentration Camp 66. PM 3400			
		POW Transferred to Concentration Camp P.G. 59. PM 3300			
<i>Letter from N/K from N/K. D. 22-4-43</i>	<i>43rd</i>	<i>3.43. PG 53. PM 3300</i> <i>P.O.W. Camp P.G. 120. PM 3200. ITALY</i>	<i>Gnr</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
<i>Letter from N/K 2.3.44 9904/4/2264</i>	<i>73rd</i> <i>Med</i>	<i>Pow trans from Italy to STALAG VIIA P.O.N. 24715.</i>	<i>Gnr</i>	<i>23-11-43</i>	

Territorial Army Record of Service

Home Again

³¹ Rollings, pp. 33 and 336.

³² Territorial Army Record of Service, SFP.

0116803 Army Form X 202/B.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER to the ARMY RESERVE

Army No. 950713 Rank Gnr.

Surname (Block letters) SCHOFIELD

Christian Name(s) Herbert

Regt. or Corps R.A. Field

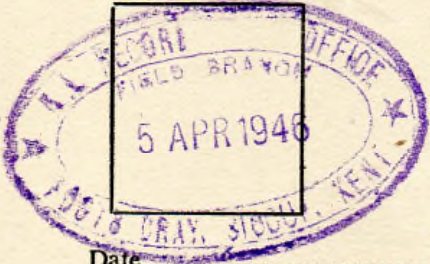
The transfer of the above-named to the appropriate Class of the Army Reserve (see note below) is confirmed with effect from 2nd July 46.

*The date to be inserted here will be that following the day on which Release Leave terminates, including any additional leave to which the soldier may be entitled by virtue of service overseas.

Note.—The appropriate Class of the Army Reserve is as follows:—

- (i) ~~Royal Army Reserve in the case of a regular soldier with reserve service to complete:~~
- (ii) Army Reserve, Class Z (T)—in the case of a man of the Territorial Army, including those called up for service under the National Service Acts:
- (iii) ~~Army Reserve, Class Z in the case of all other soldiers not included in (i) or (ii) above.~~

Record Office Stamp,



H. M. M. M.

Officer i/c RECORDS Records.

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(FIELD BRANCH)

Date 5 APR 1946

Warning.—

Any alteration of the particulars given in this certificate may render the holder liable to prosecution under the Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Act, 1906.

If this certificate is lost or mislaid, no duplicate can be obtained.

Wt. 37285/90 1,000M 12/45 KJL/1516/16 Gp. 28/3

SFP

Just when you think it is all over you have to join the Army Reserve!

AI to B2

Following his foot injury Bert was classified as B2 on his return to these shores. He was entitled to a disablement pension. On his first visit to collect the pension he walked out stunned that he should be receiving pension for his minor injury when others queuing were without limbs or horribly scarred.

950713
 (Army No.)
 (Signature) *SCHAFIELD*
 (Christian Name) *NECHFIELD*
 (Unit, Regt. or Corp.) *88 Inf. Regt.*
 (Date of) *5 Mar 40*
 (Calling by the military service)
 (Strike out whichever is inapplicable)
 (1) Trade on enlistment *Post at Altman*
 (2) Trade courses and trade tests passed *Signature*
 (3) Service Trade
 (4) Any other qualification for civilian employment
 Military Contact:
 (1) *Exemplary*
 (2) *Good & reliable. An hard worker who shows keenness on his job. Should make a good employee.*
 (3) *Lydd Plant*
 (4) *42-44*
 Officer's Signature *Signature of Officer*
 Signature of Soldier *Signature of Soldier*
 * Army Education Record (including particulars under (a), (b), (c) and (d) below):
 (a) Type of course
 (b) Length
 (c) Total hours of instruction
 (d) Record of achievement
 * Instruction will insert the letter "I" here to indicate that in their case the record refers to courses in which they have acted as instructors.
 Signature of Civil Education Officer
 THE ABOVE-NAMED MAN PROCEEDED ON RELEASE LEAVE ON 08 MAR 1940
 IN THE MILITARY SERVICE UNIT STAMP OFFICE
 M.R. 1, a certificate showing the date of transfer to the appropriate Army Service (A.P. 202)(3) will be issued by the Officer's Record Office.

SFP

“Should Make a Good Employee”

135

ARMY BOOK X 801

Surname SCHOFIELD

Initials 4

Army No. 950 413

**SOLDIER'S
RELEASE BOOK**

CLASS "A"



If you have any queries relating to your
Civilian Clothing, address them to:
Q.C. No. 7 C.C.D. EARL MILL, OLDHAM LANC.

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you cash a postal draft or one of the drafts in your
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date of payment on the inside page of the front cover.

SFP

Demob Suit Alterations

Herbert Schofield received the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star for service in North Africa, and the War Medal 1939-45.



SFP

World War II Medals

Campaign Stars, Clasps and Medals
instituted in recognition of service
in the war of 1939-45

Order of Wearing	Description of Ribbon	Clasp or Emblem (if awarded)
1 1939-45 Star	Dark blue, red and light blue in three equal vertical stripes. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Battle of Britain
2 Atlantic Star	Blue, white and sea green shaded and watered. This ribbon is worn with the blue edge furthest from the left shoulder.	Air Crew Europe or France and Germany
3 Air Crew Europe Star	Light blue with black edges and in addition a narrow yellow stripe on either side.	Atlantic or France and Germany
4 Africa Star	Pale buff, with a central vertical red stripe and two narrower stripes, one dark blue, and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	8th Army or 1st Army or North Africa 1942-43
5 Pacific Star	Dark green with red edges, a central yellow stripe, and two narrow stripes, one dark blue and the other light blue. This ribbon is worn with the dark blue stripe furthest from the left shoulder.	Burma
6 Burma Star	Dark blue with a central red stripe and in addition two orange stripes.	Pacific
7 Italy Star	Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in red at either edge and one in green at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.	
8 France and Germany Star	Five vertical stripes of equal width, one in blue at either edge and one in red at the centre, the two intervening stripes being in white.	Atlantic
9 Defence Medal	Flame coloured with green edges, upon each of which is a narrow black stripe.	Silver laurel leaves (King's Commendation for brave conduct. Civil)
10 War Medal 1939-45	A narrow central red stripe with a narrow white stripe on either side. A broad red stripe at either edge, and two intervening stripes in blue.	Oak leaf

SFP

Medals List

SADDLEWORTH 1939 - 1945 PART 1 ARMY

Ivan Foster

In 1950 Saddleworth UDC, aided by the British Legion, prepared lists of the Fallen which were “ ... placed on deposit in various parts of Saddleworth, ... in order that the public may have an opportunity of inspecting the Lists and if necessary making representations thereon, as to omissions or errors.”¹ These men were commemorated on the plaques added to the Pots and Pans War Memorial in 1951.

Since then details of more Saddleworth men 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.

Ashurst, Tom	Private	1st (Airborne) Bn attd HQ 1st Airlanding Bde (Border Regiment)	
Service No. 4616055		Died on 24th September 1944	<i>Age 24.</i>
Born 1920 at Oldham.			
Son of Thomas Melling & Annie Ashurst (née Richards) of Oldham.			
Tom married May Harris of Waterhead at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1941.			
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).			
Interred at Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery 26. B. 6, Gelderland, Netherlands.			

Bannister, Jack	Gunner 14th Lt. AA Regt Royal Artillery	
Service No. 11050601	Died on 7th December 1944	<i>Age 23.</i>
Born in 1921 at Saddleworth.		
Son of Joseph and Bertha Bannister (née Winterbottom) of Springhead.		
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).		
Interred at Forli War Cemetery I. D. 12, Italy.		

Barrowclough, Reggie Private 5th Bn The Parachute Regiment AAC
Service No. 3606498 Died on 12th December 1944 *Age 22.*
Born in 1922 at Saddleworth.
Son of Dyson and Mary Maud Barrowclough (née Jones) of Dobcross.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Diggle & Dobcross).
Interred at Phaleron War Cemetery 19. D. 1, near Athens, Greece.

Boardman, James	Trooper	144th (8th Bn The East Lancs. Regt.) Regiment Royal Armoured Corps	
Service No. 3391795		Died on 16th August 1944	<i>Age 33.</i>
Born in 1911 at Saddleworth.			
Son of John Ernest & Elizabeth Boardman (née Walmsley) of Springhead.			
James married Amelia Jones at Oldham in 1936.			
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).			
Interred at Bretteville-Sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery XXII. A. 7, Calvados, France.			

Booth, Robert John Basil Private Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Service No. 645338 Died whilst POW in Far East on 9th Sept. 1943 *Age 26.*
Born in 1917 at West Derby, Lancashire.
Son of Aked & Jane Booth (née Pearson) of Saughall Massie, Cheshire.
B.A., Hons (Liverpool). (Aked Booth was born in Greenfield in 1869).
Commemorated on; St Chad's grave N3119.
Interred at Chungkai War Cemetery 5. C. 2, Thailand.

¹ Letter to G.B. Howcroft from T. Nutall, clerk to Saddleworth UDC, 14 March 1950: Saddleworth Museum Archives, Howcroft collection.

- Broadbent, Stanley** Lance Corporal 1st Bn Irish Guards
Service no 2720379 Killed on 23rd February 1944 *Age 27*
Born in 1916 at Bakewell, Derbyshire.
Son of Arthur Bennett & Clara Broadbent (née Singleton) of Alsop, Derbyshire.
(Arthur Bennett Broadbent was born in Diggle. He was a Station Master).
Stanley married Hilda Ruth Myfanwy Ratcliffe of Honley at Halifax in 1937.
Commemorated on; Wesleyan Memorial Plaque, Delph.
Interred at Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio XIX. F. 7, Italy.
- Brown, Albert** Trooper Royal Armoured Corps 3rd Carabiniers
(Prince of Wales' Dragoon Guards)
Service no 3457705 Died on 19th April 1944 *Age 30*
Born in 1912 at Saddleworth.
Son of Edward Herbert & Harriet Ann Brown (née Sykes) of Oldham.
Albert married Ruth Alice Fernley at Oldham in 1938.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Denshaw),
Denshaw War Memorial.
Interred at Imphal War Cemetery 9. E. 16, Imphal, Manipur State, India.
- Brown, Alfred** Gunner Royal Artillery
Service no 1736877 Died on 19th February 1941 *Age 33*
Born in 1909 at Oldham.
Son of Harry & Nancy Brown, (née Dunning) of Greenfield.
Alfred married Ellen Evans at Saddleworth in 1930.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
Christchurch Churchyard, Friezland, grave CCF 171.
Interred at Christchurch, Friezland grave CCF 171.
- Buckley, Charles John** Lieutenant 164 Railway Operating Sqn, Royal Engineers
Service no 364739 Died on 15th July 1947 *Age 20*
Born 28th August 1926 at Saddleworth.
Son of Francis and Dorothy Bebb Rose Buckley (née Burman) of Tunstead.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
St Chad's grave NY802.
Interred at St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY802.
- Buckley, Ernest Gordon** Private 2/7th Bn Duke of Wellington's
(West Riding Regiment)
Service no 4616060 Died on 11th/12th June 1940 *Age 23*
Born 1917 at Saddleworth.
Son of Herbert & Martha Ann Buckley (née Brierley) of New Delph.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Delph),
St Thomas' Church, Memorial Roll of Honour.
Interred at Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, Divn. 67. Row T. Grave 6,
Seine-Maritime, France.
- Butterworth, Roy** Private 2nd Bn South Lancashire Regiment
Service no 3654187 Died of wounds in Burma on 3rd April 1945 *Age 30*
Born 1914 at Saddleworth.
Son of John & Mary Spencer Butterworth (née Laycock) of Saddleworth.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans, (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
St Mary's Church, Greenfield, Memorial Plaque,
Christchurch, Friezland, grave CCF824,
Rangoon Memorial Face 14, Burma.
Interred at (body not recovered for burial).

- Clarke, John** Corporal 2nd Bn South Lancashire Regiment
 Service no 3657965 Killed in Burma on 17th March 1944 *Age 28*
 Born in 1916 at Rochdale.
 Son of Harry & Alice Clarke (née Schofield) of Rochdale.
 John married Joan Rutledge of Rochdale at Saddleworth in 1941.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
 St Mary's Church, Greenfield, Memorial Plaque,
 St Anne's Church, Lydgate, grave LYD/SW 66.
 Interred at Taukkyan War Cemetery Coll. grave 4. K. 6-8, Burma.
- Clegg, Harry** Captain Royal Artillery 64 (The Queen's Own
 Royal Glasgow Yeomanry) Anti-Tank Rgt
 Service no 49580 Died on 27th November 1942 *Age 31*
 Born in 1911 at Oldham.
 Son of Harry and Annie Clegg (née Hadfield) of Grasscroft.
 Harry married Betty Joan Fraser Haggart at South Manchester in 1935.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft).
 Interred at Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery 8. F. 18, Tunisia.
- Cliff, Harold Spencer** Section Leader 36th West Riding (Upper Agbrigg) Bn
 Home Guard
 Died on 28th September 1940 *Age 30*
 Born on 8th April 1910 at Saddleworth.
 Son of Harold & Mary Cliff (née Spencer) of Uppermill.
 Harold married Joan Elizabeth Bradbury at Saddleworth in 1938.
 Commemorated on; St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY1782.
 Interred at St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY 1782.
- Cook, Edwin** Private 1st Bn King's Shropshire Light Infantry
 Service no 4031749 Killed on 22nd May 1940 *Age 26*
 Born in 1914 at Bucklow, Cheshire.
 Son of George Thomas & Mary Ann Cook (née Mills) of Altrincham.
 Edwin married Ada Landsborough at Bucklow in 1940.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Diggle & Dobcross).
 Interred at Froyennes Communal Cemetery, Row 3. Grave 23, Hainaut, Belgium.
- Davies, Wright** Private 2nd Bn The King's Regiment
 Service no 14518127 Killed on 8th November 1944 *Age 37*
 Born in 1907 at Saddleworth.
 Son of Herbert & Eliza Davies (née Dronsfield) of Springhead.
 Wright married Mary Hart at Oldham in 1932.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).
 Interred at Meldola War Cemetery I. E. 8, Italy.
- Dawson, Eric** Trooper 1st Fife and Forfar Yeomanry Royal Armoured Corps
 Service no 4616192 Killed in Emden, Germany on 22nd April 1945 *Age 25*
 Born in 1920 at Saddleworth.
 Son of Harry and Norah Dawson (née Brown) of Greenfield.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
 St Mary's Church, Greenfield, Memorial Plaque,
 St Chad's Churchyard grave NY 444.
 Interred at Sage War Cemetery 5. E. 10, Germany.
- Dawson, Turnough** Private 9th Bn Durham Light Infantry
 Service no 4467361 Died on 16th July 1943 *Age 23*
 Born in 1920 at Saddleworth.
 Son of Joseph & Mary Dawson (née Leech) of Oldham.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Diggle & Dobcross),
 Wrigley Mill Memorial Plaque.
 Interred at Catania War Cemetery III. D. 29, Sicily.

- Downey, George Arthur** Private 5th Bn East Lancashire Regiment
Service no 14657660 Died on 16th July 1944 *Age 19*
Born in 1925 at Saddleworth.
Son of Thomas Anderson & Georgina Downey (née Robinson) of Delph.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Delph),
St Thomas' Church, Delph, Memorial Roll of Honour,
Wesleyan Chapel, Delph, Memorial Plaque.
Interred at Fontenay-Le-Pesnel War Cemetery Tessel III. F. 3,
Calvados, France.
- Dunkerley, William** Corporal Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (MG), RCIC
Service no D/82887 Died on 8th July 1944 *Age 23*
Born in 1921 at Saddleworth
Son of Frank & Minerva Dunkerley (née Nowel) of Greenfield.
William married Millie Hirst of Greenfield in 1943.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
St Mary's Church, Greenfield, Memorial Plaque.
Interred at Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery X. E. 13, Reviere,
Calvados, France.
- Fox, Eric** Sapper 557 Field Coy Royal Engineers
Service no 2008569 Killed on 7th February 1942 *Age 22*
Born in 1920 at Saddleworth.
Son of William Henry & Helena Fox (née Evans) of Greenfield.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft).
Interred at Middleton Old Cemetery grave P.50.
- Gartside, Richard Nelson** Major Indian Signal Corps
Service no EC/6555 Killed on active service, India on 6th August 1946 *Age 43*
Born in 1903 at Prestwich. Lancashire.
Son of Roger Wolseley & Claire Mayall Gartside (née Lees) of Prestwich.
Richard married Margery Kathleen at Westminster (date not found).
Commemorated on; St Thomas' Church, Friarmere, Grave Memorial
no Hts 478.
Interred at Karachi War Cemetery 3. B. 10, Pakistan.
- Green, Harry** Trooper RAC 40th (7th Bn The King's Regt (Liverpool))
Royal Tank Regiment
Service no 3456346 Killed on 6th April 1943 *Age 28*
Born in 1915 at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Son of Harry & Sarah Alice Green (née Wood) of St John Street, Lees.
Harry married Nora Kenworthy at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1940.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft).
Interred at Sfax War Cemetery II. E. 19, Tunisia.
- Griffith, James Michael** Private 2nd Bn The King's Regiment (Liverpool)
Service no 3535705 Died in Italy on 15th September 1944 *Age 30*
Born in 1914 at Oldham.
Son of Patrick & Ellen Griffith (née Frain) of Oldham.
James Michael married Maud Barnes at Middleton in 1939.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Uppermill),
Interred at Coriano Ridge War Cemetery XIX, D, 8, Italy.
- Hargreaves, George** L/Cpl 1st Bn Irish Guards
Service no 2720323 Killed in action (kia) on 24th February 1944 *Age 27*
Born in 1917 at Haslington, Lancashire.
Son of Walter & Elizabeth Hargreaves (née Duckworth) of Greenfield.
George married Mary Logan at Saddleworth in 1942.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
Cassino Memorial Panel 4, Italy.
Interred at (body not recovered for burial).

- Higgs, Cyril** Private Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Service no 10573070 Died in Ceylon on 15th June 1943 *Age 33.*
Born in 1909 at Oldham.
Son of Higgs (née Duddle) of Chadderton, Lancashire.
Cyril married Alice England of Delph at Oldham in 1933.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Delph),
St Thomas' Church, Delph, Memorial Roll of Honour.
Interred at Trincomalee War Cemetery 2. E. 5, Sri Lanka.
- Holden, Irvine** Gunner 66th Field Regt Royal Artillery
Service no 1102627 Died in Libya on 25th November 1943 *Age 33.*
Born in 1909 at Saddleworth.
Son of Frank and Amy Holden (née Hall) of Diggle.
Commemorated on; St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY 4028.
Interred at Benghazi War Cemetery 2. A. 28, Libya.
- Jackson, Frank** Fusilier 1/8th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Service no 3452968 Died on 11th May 1944 *Age 24.*
Born in 1919 at Saddleworth.
Son of Albert & Ethel Jackson (née Shepherdson) of Springhead.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).
Interred at Kohima War Cemetery 1. B. 8, Nagaland State, India.
- Kirkpatrick, Alex** L/Cpl 1/8th Bn Lancashire Fusiliers
Service no 3453762 Died in India on 29th May 1944 *Age 24.*
Born in 1919 at Warrington.
Son of Samuel & Annie Kirkpatrick (née Hunter) of Denshaw.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Denshaw), Denshaw War Memorial.
Interred at Imphal War Cemetery 7. H. 10, Imphal, Manipur State, India.
- Lancaster, Sidney** Gunner 74 Medium Regt Royal Artillery
Service no 954108 Killed on 26th October 1944 *Age 27.*
Born in 1917 at West Ham, Essex.
Son of Harry George & Amelia Emma Ann Lancaster (née Goody).
Sidney married Peggy Eileen Quilter at Wandsworth in 1941.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft).
Interred at Minturno War Cemetery IV, D, 3, north of Naples, Italy.
- Mayoh, David** Private 2nd Btn King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
Service no 19038765 Died on 11th November 1947 *Age 23.*
Born in 1924 at Bolton.
Son of Herbert & Ellen Mayoh (née Heywood) of Oldham.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).
Interred at Taiping War Cemetery 4. C. 19, Perak State, Malaysia.
- McCabe, Clement** Trooper 17th/21st Lancers Royal Armoured Corps
Service no 7953906 Killed on 7th January 1943 *Age 26.*
Born in 1917 at Saddleworth.
Son of Francis Edward & Margaret Ann McCabe (née Molloy) of Shaw.
Clement married Margery Cheetham at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1937.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead),
Medjez-El-Bab Memorial Face 3, Tunisia.
Interred at (body not recovered for burial)
- Mellor, Fred** Gunner 44 Bty 61 Lt AA Regt Royal Artillery
Service no 4131650 Died on 1st June 1942 *Age 22.*
Born in 1920 at Saddleworth.
Son of Ralph T & Alice Mellor (née Holmes) of Delph.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Delph).
Interred at Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma 1. H. 15 Libya.

- Norbury, John** Private 2/7th Bn Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)
 Service no 4614956 Died on 11th June 1940 *Age 19.*
 Born in 1921 at Saddleworth.
 Son of James Henry & Mary Ellen Norbury (née Bardsley) of Springhead.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).
 Interred at Veules-Les-Roses Communal Cemetery Row 3, Grave 1,
 Seine-Maritime, France.
- Nugent, Edwin** Private 2nd Bn West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own)
 Service no 14515111 *kia* on 23rd April 1944 *Age 36.*
 Born in 1908 at Greenfield.
 Son of John & Ellen Nugent (née Wilson) of Greenfield.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
 Rangoon Memorial Face 8, Burma.
 Interred at (body not recovered for burial).
- Palmer, Thomas Lancaster** Sapper 103 Army Troops Coy Royal Engineers
 Service no 2144008 Died on 6th July 1943 *Age 23.*
 Born in 1915 at Saddleworth.
 Son of Thomas and Hannah Palmer (née Brooks) of Uppermill.
 Thomas L married Bertha Crosby at Saddleworth in 1936.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Uppermill).
 Interred at Enfidaville War Cemetery II. F. 16, Tunisia.
- Ratcliffe, Joseph** L/Cpl Royal Army Ordnance Corp att'd Royal Engineers
 Service no 7652957 Died on 17th June 1943 *Age 27.*
 Born in 1913 at Saddleworth.
 Son of Samuel & Elizabeth Ratcliffe (née Longdon) of Greenfield.
 Joseph married Alice Holburt at Saddleworth in 1938.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead),
 Brookwood Memorial, Surrey Panel 19. Column 1.
 Interred at (body not recovered for burial).
- Rhodes, Jack** Guardsman 5th Bn Grenadier Guards
 Service no 2619255 Died in Italy on 27th January 1945 *Age 30.*
 Born in 1914 at Saddleworth.
 Son of Joseph & Ann Rhodes (née Dowden, née Kenworthy) of Uppermill.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Uppermill).
 Interred at Castiglione South African Cemetery III, C, 4, Bologna, Italy.
- Rimmer, John** Driver Royal Army Service Corps att'd Royal Artillery
 Service no T/229939 Died on 12th September 1944 *Age 27.*
 Born in 1917 at Oldham.
 Son of Rimmer (née Ainsworth).
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Diggle & Dobcross),
 Singapore Memorial Column 100.
 Interred at (body not recovered for burial).
- Roberts, Ernest** Private Royal Army Ordnance Corps
 Service no 7617597 Killed in Egypt on 25th June 1942 *Age 27.*
 Born in 1915 at Oldham.
 Son of Richard & Harriet Ann Roberts (née Hiron) of Oldham.
 Ernest married Florence Lees at Oldham in 1936.
 Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft).
 Interred at El Alamein War Cemetery XXXI. A. 22, Egypt.

- Rowbotham, Arthur** Private 63 (Airborne) Composite Coy Royal Army Service Corps
Service no 4616055 Died on 19th September 1944 *Age 28.*
Born in 1916.
Son of (not found 2016).
Arthur married Alexandra Mons Davies at St Albans, Herts. in 1943.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft),
Plaque on Buckley's bakery, The Square, Uppermill.
Interred at Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery 15. B. 13,
Gelderland, Netherlands.
- Sadler, George H.W.** Gunner 159 Field Regt Royal Artillery
Service no 1084674 Died on 28th June 1942 *Age 21.*
Born in 1920 at Saddleworth.
Son of George & Hannah Maria Sadler (née Spilling) of Diggle.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Diggle & Dobcross),
Wrigley Mill Memorial Plaque,
Brookwood Memorial, Surrey Panel 3. Column 3.
Interred at (body not recovered for burial).
- Shaw, Alec** Guardsman 5th Bn Coldstream Guards
Service no 2659473 Died on 9th September 1944 *Age 26.*
Born in 1919 at Oldham.
Son of Arthur & Ethel Shaw (née Coombes) of Oldham.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Delph),
St Thomas' Church, Delph, Memorial Roll of Honour.
Interred at Leopoldsburg War Cemetery IV. B. 15, Limburg, Belgium.
- Shaw, Percy** L/Cpl 2nd Bn Gordon Highlanders
Service no 6978297 Died on 21st September 1944 *Age 28.*
Born in 1916 at Saddleworth.
Son of Thomas Talbot & Mary Ann Shaw (née McDermott) of Springhead.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead),
Singapore Memorial Column 78.
Interred at (body not recovered for burial).
- Singleton, Herbert** Private 5th Bn Essex Regiment
Service no 13103237 Died in Italy on 10th January 1944 *Age 33.*
Born in 1910 at Saddleworth.
Son of John and Clara Singleton (née Dent) of Delph.
Herbert married Sarah Elizabeth Schofield at Saddleworth in 1933.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Diggle & Dobcross),
Denshaw War Memorial,
St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY 651.
Interred at Moro River Canadian War Cemetery XII. B. 14, Italy
- Smith, Sidney** Signaller 3rd Command Sigs Royal Corps of Signals
Service no 2367854 Died on 9th August 1943 *Age 32.*
Born in 1911 at Saddleworth.
Son of Arthur & Bertha Smith (née Smith) of Greenfield.
Sidney married Annie Joyce Reid at Saddleworth in 1943.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Diggle & Dobcross).
Interred at St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY1910.
- Thorneley, Fred** Private 2nd Bn Duke of Wellington's
(West Riding Regiment)
Service no 4616211 Killed in India on 25th May 1942 *Age 22.*
Born in 1920 at Saddleworth.
Son of Nevin & Alice Ann Thorneley (née Wagstaff) of Uppermill.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Uppermill),
St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY 3327.
Interred at Delhi War Cemetery 6. G. 14 India.

- Turton, Alfred** Private 1st Bn Lincolnshire Regiment
Service no 3389771 Died in Burma on 3rd February 1945 *Age 29.*
Born in 1915 at Saddleworth.
Son of Charlie & Sarah Ann Turton (née Mansfield) of Denshaw.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Denshaw), Denshaw War Memorial.
Interred at Taukkyan War Cemetery Coll. grave 10. A. 21-24, Burma.
- Walton, Frank** Craftsman Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Service no 7612947 Died on 11th July 1944 *Age 27.*
Born in 1920 at Saddleworth.
Son of Fred & Eliza Jane Walton (née Green) of Greenfield.
Frank married Kathleen Mary Capper, of Greenfield, at Saddleworth in 1940.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft).
Interred at St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY1415.
- Weigh, Robert** Fusilier 6th Bn Royal Scots Fusiliers
Service no 14443393 Died on 25th February 1945 *Age 18.*
Born in 1926 at Ashton-under-Lyne.
Son of Robert & Ethel Weigh (née Broadbent) of Lees.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead),
St Paul's Church, Scouthead, Memorial Cupboard.
Interred at Uden War Cemetery 6. D. 12, Noord-Brabant, Netherlands.
- Whitworth, Sydney** Signalman 77 HAA Regt Royal Artillery
Signal Section Royal Corps of Signals
Service no 2365173 Missing in Far East on 19th November 1942 *Age 35.*
Born in 1905 at Saddleworth.
Son of Ralph Taylor & Bertha Whitworth (née Collier) of Springhead.
Sydney married Freda Kershaw at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1932.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead),
St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY 2065,
Singapore Memorial Column 45.
Interred at (body not recovered for burial).
- Wild, Joseph** Private 19 Advanced Fighting Vehicles Depot
Royal Army Ordnance Corps
Service no 14499552 Died on 12th May 1945 *Age 19.*
Born in 1926 at Salford.
Son of Joseph & Florence Louisa Wild (née Stonehouse), of Springhead.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).
Interred at Lees Cemetery Sec. 5H. grave 30.
- Wild, Walter Hiram** Sapper 90 Field Coy Royal Engineers
Service no 2136815 Died on 14th February 1944 *Age 33.*
Born in 1910 at Oldham.
Son of John Fred & Minnie Wild (née Wild) of Austerlands.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Springhead).
Interred at St John the Baptist, Hey, Churchyard extension grave G. 15.
- Wood, Derrick** Guardsman Grenadier Guards
Service no 2627174 Killed in accident at Windsor on 4th June 1945 *Age 18.*
Born in 1926 at Saddleworth.
Son of William White & Rose Alice Vinca Wood (née Taylor) of Greenfield.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Greenfield & Grasscroft).
Interred at St Chad's Churchyard, grave NY (CWGC) 4153.

Wrigley, Herbert Guardsman 3rd Bn Irish Guards
Service no 2721704 Died on 11th August 1944 Age 29.
Born in 1915 at Saddleworth.
Son of Harry & Ruth Wrigley (née Gartside) of Delph.
Herbert married Lillie Sheldon of Delph at Saddleworth in 1940.
Commemorated on; Pots & Pans (Delph),
Denshaw War Memorial,
St Thomas' Church, Delph, Memorial Roll of Honour.
Interred at Tilly-Sur-Seulles War Cemetery VIII. E. 12, Calvados, France.

Sources

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <http://www.cwgc.org/>
Birth, Marriage & Death Records: <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>
Census Records 1841 to 1911: <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>
Military records: <http://home.ancestry.co.uk/>
<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
Mossley and Saddleworth Reporter.
Oldham Chronicle.

Monumental Inscriptions

Transcriptions in Saddleworth Historical Society Archives
 MI's Christ Church, Denshaw by I. Foster [Den]
 MI's Christ Church, Friezland by Alison Wild 2002 [CCF]
 MI's St Anne's Church, Lydgate by I. Foster [Lyd]
 MI's St Thomas Church, Friarmere by I. Foster [Hts]
 MI's St Chad's Church, New Yard A. Wild & I. Foster [NY]

Local War Memorials

Christchurch, Denshaw Churchyard Memorial
Christchurch, Friezland Memorial Plaque.
Delph Methodist Church Memorial Plaque.
Greenfield Methodist Church Memorial Roll of Honour.
Holy Trinity Church, Dobcross, Memorial Panel.
Pots and Pans War Memorial.
Springhead Congregational Church memorials.
St Paul's, Church, Scouthead, Memorial Cupboard (now inside Holy Trinity, Dobcross).
St Thomas' Church, Delph, Roll of Honour.
Uppermill Methodist Church Memorial Panels.

BANKFIELD MILL and EBONESTOS, NEW CROSS, LONDON

Audrey M. Taylor

This is a piece of reminiscence about my father who was manager of 'Ebonestos', New Cross, London which relocated to Bankfield Mill, Dobcross around 1941-42 due to the Second World War.

Ebonestos was making important aeroplane cockpit parts for the Lancaster bombers and being on the outskirts of London was in danger of being bombed daily. My father Len and his brother, Sidney Wilson, who was an expert toolmaker, also moved together with many of the workforce and live in lodgings around the area of the mill.

Originally mum, uncle Sid's wife and little daughter, stayed at home but as the bombing increased in intensity we all eventually moved up to join dad and my uncle. We lodged in Riversleigh House, opposite the senior school, where I met Iris Mingham (née Lambert) who has remained a life long friend.

At the end of the war most of the London workers plus mum, me, auntie and cousin Jennie, returned home but my father was left behind to supervise the closing of the mill. Many, many moths passed and still father remained in Dobcross. One weekend he had come home for a few days and whilst at home the telephone rang to say the mill was on fire. It was freezing cold and the reservoir behind the mill was frozen solid, consequently the fire brigade could not access any water and the mill continued to burn down. In the morning when the full picture emerged my mother clapped her hands and said "Now you will have to come home".

One other London gentleman who didn't return home was Arthur Burgess, a toolmaker. He eventually married a local girl, Kathie and lives in Greenfield.

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