

**Shine the Light**

# **Remembering the Fallen**

**1914 - 1918**  **1939 - 1945**

## **The World War Heroes of Rixton-with-Glazebrook**



November 2018

To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the end of the First World War, the Shine the Light Committee have produced this booklet to pay tribute to the fallen heroes from the parish of Rixton-with-Glazebrook who died serving their country, not only in the First World War, but also in the Second World War.

Brief biographies are included for all known servicemen from both wars, who lived or worshipped in the parish, are named on the war memorial, or are buried or commemorated in Hollinfare Cemetery.



*“We are proud to support the ‘Shine the Light’ project and are grateful to the committee and many donors and volunteers involved in making this remarkable act of Remembrance a reality.*

*The men and women who served in the two World Wars and particularly those who gave their lives for our freedom deserve to be remembered in perpetuity and it now falls to us to ensure this continues to happen.*

*Some of the photographs and individual life histories contained in this booklet are extracted from our two books, ‘A District at War’ and ‘Two Towns go to War’, which record the contribution of Irlam, Cadishead and Rixton-with-Glazebrook to the two World Wars.*

*The stories remind us that these men are more than names on war memorials; although they lived short lives, they laughed, they cried, they worked, they played, they loved and were loved. Many of them are ‘kept alive’ in our collective memories and we are pleased to help continue this remembrance by sharing their life histories with you.”*

**Pete Thomas and Neil Drum**

**WENT WELL THE DAY  
WE DIED AND NEVER KNEW  
BUT WELL OR ILL  
ENGLAND WE DIED FOR YOU  
YE THAT LIVE ON  
MID ENGLAND’S PASTURES GREEN  
REMEMBER US  
AND THINK WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN**

John Maxwell Edmonds 1914-1918



## ERNEST ALDRIDGE

Killed in action 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917

**Company Sergeant Major Ernest Aldridge (Service no. G/870) served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The East Kent Regiment (The Buffs), 55<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division.**



Ernest was born in Lichfield, Staffordshire the son of Joseph and Mary Aldridge. Prior to the war Ernest was living in Cadishead.

Ernest enlisted on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1914 at St Pancras in Middlesex. His description was recorded as 5 foot 7½ inches tall, with a fresh complexion, brown hair and brown eyes, weighing 144lb and religious denomination, Church of England. He was posted to the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, joining it on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Rising up the ranks, he was promoted to Sergeant on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July Ernest was severely wounded by a gunshot wound during the Battle of the Somme and two days later was sent back to England on board hospital ship *SS Australia*. He spent 48 days in a Military Hospital and proceeded on sick leave. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September he married Emily Howard at Hollinfare. On 29<sup>th</sup> September he was posted on garrison duties with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Buffs at Dover and remained there until early 1917. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1917 he returned to France and back to the 7<sup>th</sup> Buffs. On 7<sup>th</sup> May 1917 he was appointed Acting Company Sergeant Major.

Ernest was killed in action on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 1917 aged 27 near Poelcappelle, during the first Battle of Passchendaele. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium and the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## RICHARD GEORGE ASPY

Died (cause unknown) 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918

**Private Richard George Aspy,  
Service no. 37143  
served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
The Royal Welsh Fusiliers.**



Richard was born at Hollins Green but by the time he enlisted he was living in Runcorn and enlisted at Frodsham, Cheshire.

Richard died while serving on garrison duties in India on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918.

Richard is buried in Kirkee Cemetery and is commemorated on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, India. He is not commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## **EDWARD ATHERTON MC**

**Died of illness 18<sup>th</sup> February 1919**

**Lieutenant Edward Atherton MC served with the 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Machine Gun Corps.**



Edward was the eldest son of John and Louisa Atherton of Townley Brow Farm, Dam Lane, Rixton. He was formerly a chorister in St Helen's Church Choir, Hollinfare, and was educated at the Hollinfare Day School and Urmston Higher Grade School. He was married to Mabel Eliza and had two children.

Lieutenant Atherton had a splendid record of service. He was the first soldier from the Hollinfare district to go on active service, being drafted to Egypt with the 6<sup>th</sup> Manchesters in 1914 and then disembarking at Gallipoli on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1915, by which time he had been promoted to Sergeant. He was wounded twice during the Gallipoli Campaign and was present at the evacuation in December 1915/January 1916. In April 1918, he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry at Festubert, and was made Lieutenant in November 1918.

Lieutenant Atherton died on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1919 from the effects of septic pneumonia, aged 26. His death occurred about three weeks after an ear operation.

The funeral took place with military honours at Hollinfare Cemetery. The coffin was borne by soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment based at Warrington. A company of soldiers under the command of Captain Stott and Second Lieutenant Sankey, fired three volleys over the grave in Hollinfare Cemetery, and the Last Post was sounded.

Edward is commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## **EDWARD BARKER**

**Killed in action 31<sup>st</sup> July 1915**

**Private Edward Barker 10922 served with the 6<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment), 38<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 13<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division.**



Edward was born at Glazebrook, the son of Paul and Elizabeth Barker of Hollinfare. He had two brothers Paul and William and a sister, Elizabeth. Edward worked as a roadman for the County Council and enlisted, aged 22 years at Warrington on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1914, along with John Scott. He was posted to Tidworth on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914 before going overseas.

Edward was reported missing between 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July while serving in Gallipoli and was later presumed to have been killed in action on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1915.

Edward is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli and Hollinfare War Memorial. Medal Entitlement: 15 Star Trio.

Edward's brothers also served in the Army. Paul Barker was a Private (17077) in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment) who went on to serve on the Western Front where he received a shrapnel wound to his right leg on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1916. William Barker served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery.





## THOMAS BLUNDELL

Died of illness 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918

**Able Seaman Thomas Blundell,  
Service no. Mersey Z/2410.  
Also served on HMS Queen Royal Navy  
Voluntary Reserve.**



Thomas had joined the Navy in November 1916, and went to Salonika in 1917.

Thomas was the eldest son of John and Nancy Blundell of Moss Side, Rixton. On 7<sup>th</sup> August his father received word from the Admiralty that Thomas was dangerously ill in hospital with rheumatic fever. Thomas died of illness on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918, aged 21 and is buried at Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.

Thomas is commemorated locally on the Hollinfare War Memorial. He was a general favourite with his sea-mates, and great sympathy was expressed in the district for the father and relatives in their bereavement.

The Warrington Guardian stated: *"He was formerly a member of the St Helen's Church Choir, where his kindly presence will be greatly missed."*





## **FRED BROOKS**

**Killed in action 9<sup>th</sup> January 1917**

**Private Fred Brooks 36794  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment**



Fred was born in Ashton under Lyne but was living in Glazebrook when he enlisted as a private in the First Battalion Manchester Regiment.

Fred was involved in General Maude's offensive against the Ottoman army commanded by Khalil Pasha in Mesopotamia which began in December 1916 and he was killed in action on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1917.

Fred is buried at the Amara war cemetery in Iraq.



## JOSEPH BUCKLEY

Died of wounds 17<sup>th</sup> May 1918

**Private Joseph Buckley, Service no. 37609  
served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment),  
12<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Division.**



Joseph was born at Hollinfare, the son of John and Susannah Buckley and he was educated at the Hollins Green Day School. The family had moved out of the Hollinfare area before the war and were residing at 19 Lee Street, All Saints, Manchester.

Joseph was formerly employed at the Steelworks and for 3 years during the war he had been a sailor in the Mercantile Marine service. He enlisted at Cardiff in 1918 and went to the front shortly after Easter.

Joseph died of wounds on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 1918 on his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is buried in Pernes British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France.

Joseph is not commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial, however he is named on a family grave in Hollinfare Cemetery.

Mrs J. Buckley of School Lane, Rixton, received word from her sister that her nephew had been killed. At the time of Joseph's death, his father, serving in a labour battalion, was in hospital in England.



## **ERNEST CASTREY**

**Killed in action 28<sup>th</sup> October 1917**

**Private Ernest Castrey, Service no. 276657 served with the 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Manchester Regiment, 127<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Division.**



Hollinfare War Memorial records an Ernest Castrey.

Although not absolutely confirmed, there is only one Ernest Castrey on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database:

Ernest was born in Newton Heath, Manchester, enlisted in Manchester and was residing at Norton, Sheffield at the time of enlistment. He was killed in action on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 1917 and is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Ernest's connection to Hollinfare is unknown.



## JOSEPH DAVIES

Died of wounds 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1917

**Private Joseph Davies 202221**  
served with the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
The Prince of Wales's Volunteers  
(South Lancashire Regiment),  
172<sup>nd</sup> Brigade,  
57<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> West Lancashire) Division.



Joseph was a native of Widnes although it is likely that he was living with his sister-in-law, Mrs F. Bolton, of the Eagle and Child Hotel in Hollins Green. Prior to enlisting he worked at the Irlam CWS Soap Works.

Joseph went to the front in February 1916. At first Mrs Bolton received the news that he had been injured in both legs and the back and, as a result had had his left leg amputated.

Joseph died of wounds on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1917, aged 22 and is buried in the Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, France.

Joseph is commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial and the Irlam Soap Works panel of the CWS Memorial at Balloon Street, Manchester.

On the day that Mrs Bolton received the news of his death she also received a delayed letter from Joseph saying he was quite well.



## **WILLIAM BOWKER FARRINGTON**

**Killed in action 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918**

**Second Lieutenant William Bowker Farrington served with the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorial Force), The Manchester Regiment, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Division.**



William was born on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1880 in Manchester, the youngest son of Roger and Annie Farrington (nee Goodwin). He served his articles with Messrs Lawson, Coppock and Hart, solicitors of Manchester, and passed his final law examination with honour in June 1901, at the early age of 20. Before the war he worked as a solicitor and commissioner of oaths, practicing on his own account in Cadishead and Manchester. For some years he was warden at Hollinfare Parish Church, and manager and correspondent of Hollins Green C.E. School. He resided at Mount Pleasant, Glazebrook and owned land at Glazebrook and Cadishead.

William enlisted in February 1916 and in early 1917 he was commissioned into the Manchester Regiment and went to France in September 1917 where he was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

William was killed in action on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918, aged 37. He served with a number of men from the district including Arthur Potts, Henry Johnson and Clement Wright. He was the officer in charge of the funeral of Henry Johnson, also attended by Arthur Potts. As an officer he was regarded by many local soldiers who referred to him in letters home.

William is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France and the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## THOMAS HARRISON

Killed in action 26<sup>th</sup> September 1916

**Private Thomas Harrison 22471,  
served with the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
The King's Own (Royal Lancaster  
Regiment), 120<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 40<sup>th</sup> Division.**



Thomas was born at Rixton in 1889, the second son of William and Mary Ann Harrison (nee Perrin). In 1891 Thomas, his parents and two siblings were living with Mary Ann's mother at Hollins Green, Rixton-with-Glazebrook. William was employed as a labourer on the Manchester Ship Canal but by the next census in 1901 he was working as a basket maker and their address was at Manchester Road, Rixton-with-Glazebrook. By 1911 the family were still in the same house but they had increased the number of children to eight. At some point between 1911 and 1913 the family moved from Rixton to 22 Grosvenor Road, Altrincham. His father, William, died here in 1913, aged 49.

Thomas was employed by the Altrincham Electric Company at Broadheath and he enlisted at Warrington on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and was drafted to the front in September 1916.

Thomas died of wounds on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 1916 and is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France.

Thomas is commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## HENRY JOHNSON

Killed in action 6<sup>th</sup> November 1917

**Private Henry Johnson Service no. 251046 served with the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorial Force), The Manchester Regiment, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 42<sup>nd</sup> (East Lancashire) Division.**



Henry lived with his parents, Thomas and Ellen Johnson, at Woodland Farm, Cadishead and worked on the family farm. He was an active worker with the Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday School.

Henry was the first from Cadishead Moss to volunteer for services when he enlisted at Manchester, serving as a machine-gunner with the 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Manchester's in Egypt and Flanders. Henry was killed in action on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 1917, aged 25 and buried in the Coxyde Military Cemetery in Belgium. The inscription on his grave reads 'Faithful unto Death'. Henry was greatly respected by a large circle of sorrowing relatives and friends.

Henry's father received the news in a letter from Lance Corporal Arthur Potts of Cadishead; a section reads *'You will regret to learn of the death of Harry, who was killed by a machine-gun bullet on the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> November. His death was practically instantaneous. He was laid in his last resting place at 2pm on the 8th. Farrington of Glazebrook was the officer in charge. One might term the cemetery a pretty place, if it were not that so many brave lads sleep beneath its soil. Imagine the road from Southport to Birkdale, and you have an idea of the spot where he lies.'*

Henry is commemorated on the Roll of Honour at Glazebrook Methodist Church.





## **GEORGE ALFRED LOW**

**Killed in action 10<sup>th</sup> July 1916**

**Sergeant George Alfred Low 14979  
served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
The Prince of Wales's Volunteers  
(South Lancashire Regiment),  
75<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Division.**



George was born in Hollins Green. At some time before the war he had moved out of the area. He married Ann Eugene Spooner at St Peter's Church, Blackley, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1912 and they had two daughters, Emily (born 1913) and Annie (1915). He was employed as a labourer.

George enlisted, aged 24 years, at Manchester on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and was posted to the 8<sup>th</sup> South Lancashire's. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 30<sup>th</sup> March and promoted to Corporal on 19<sup>th</sup> August. He disembarked in France on 28<sup>th</sup> September and was promoted to Sergeant on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1915.

George was killed in action on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 1916. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. He had served 1 year and 308 days. In the 1920s his widow was living at 42 Chapel Lane, Blackley, Manchester (although during the war other addresses were recorded including 10 Joseph Street, Middleton).

Although George was born in Hollins Green he is not commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## JOHN MADDEN

Drowned 16<sup>th</sup> December 1915

**Private John Madden 20235,  
served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion,  
Manchester Regiment.**



John Madden was 53 years old, unmarried and was billeted at 218 Liverpool Road Irlam.

In the 1901 Census there is a probable match with a John Madden born 1862 in Ireland, a general labourer residing at 18 Aquaduct Street Manchester.

John was on guard duty at Irlam Locks and was reported missing, feared drowned. It was believed that during a thick fog he had lost his footing and fell into the Manchester Ship Canal. John's body was recovered from the canal on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1915 and was laid to rest in Hollinfares Cemetery plot North 723.



## **RICHARD PARTINGTON**

**Killed in action 1<sup>st</sup> October 1917**

**Rifleman Richard Partington,  
Service No: R/3688  
served with the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
The King's Royal Rifle Corps,  
111<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 37<sup>th</sup> Division.**



Richard was born in 1893 at Heatley, Cheshire, the son of Thomas and Eliza Partington, who later resided in Back Lane, Rixton. Richard had two brothers and four sisters: Peter, Mary, Ann, Harold, Bessie and another sister whose name is not known. He was educated at Hollins Green Church of England School. By 1914 he was living in Hollinfare, working as a labourer at Irlam CWS Soap Works and in his spare time was a member of the local Bible class and was part of the Choir at St Helens Church, Hollinfare.

Richard enlisted on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1914 at Warrington, along with several colleagues from the CWS Soap Works including Harry Hingston, Joseph Edward Morgan, Alfred Taylor, Fred Owen, James Dickinson and Roland Dale. At first he was posted to the Depot and then to the 11<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion. On 8<sup>th</sup> October he was posted to the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He arrived in France on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1915. In February 1916 he was attached to the Transport Section.

Richard was killed during the Battle of Polygon Wood, Third Battle of Ypres, on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1917. He was 24 years old. Like most of the soldiers killed during the battle he has no known grave and is therefore commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium.

Richard is commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial and the Irlam Soap Works panel of the CWS Memorial in Balloon Street, Manchester.



## JAMES PHOENIX

Killed in action 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917

**Private James William Phoenix,  
Service no. 32573 served with the 19<sup>th</sup> (Service)  
Battalion (4<sup>th</sup> City), The Manchester Regiment,  
21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade, 30<sup>th</sup> Division.**



James was born in Glazebrook, the eldest son of William and Betsy Phoenix with whom he resided at 226 Liverpool Road, Cadishead. Before the war James was employed by Mana Oil (situated on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal between Hayes Road and Bob's Lane) and before that at the Steelworks. James was an active member of Cadishead Liberal Club and a regular attendee at the Primitive Methodist Mission in Cadishead where he was the treasurer of the choir.

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917, the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion were in trenches on the Hindenburg Line, west of Cojeul River. The battalion's Commanding Officer was summoned to brigade headquarters and ordered to attack the German line overlooking Cherisy. The attack was a disaster. James was killed in action during this assault, aged 24.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May, a letter was received by the family from a Private Wynne, of the 19<sup>th</sup> Manchester's who wrote *'Our deepest sympathy in the great loss that you have sustained, but hope you will cheer up, as your son died doing his duty for his country.'* The family received official notification of his death on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 1917. James was listed on the Roll of Honour of the Primitive Methodist Mission and the Cadishead Liberal Club. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France.

James is also commemorated on a family headstone in Hollinfare Cemetery.



## THOMAS RIMMER

**Killed in action 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918**

**Driver Thomas Rimmer (Service no. 57824)  
served with the 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Machine  
Gun Corps, 38<sup>th</sup> (Welsh) Division.**



Thomas was born in Cadishead, the son of John and Ellen Rimmer of Ash Grove Farm, Cadishead Moss. His family was one of the oldest farming families on Cadishead Moss. Thomas resided with his parents and worked on his father's farm as a Teamsman. He was a prominent Sunday school worker at the Glazebrook Primitive Methodist Church and also secretary of the Christian Endeavour Society and a member of the choir.

Having enlisted at Manchester in 1916 into the Border Regiment as Private 25044, at some point Thomas transferred into the Machine Gun Corps. He was shoeing a mule when a bomb dropped by a German aircraft fell nearby, killing him and several others from his battalion. The victims of the bombing were laid side by side in the Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension, Somme, France. The battalion war diary records the following entry for 10pm, 21<sup>st</sup> August, Forceville: 'Hostile plane flying very high dropped two bombs on 'B' and 'C' Company transport in Valley near HQs. Great damage to men, animals and limbers'. An officer and ten other ranks, including Thomas, were killed during the air raid.

There is a personal memorial to Thomas in Glazebrook Primitive Methodist Church from his parents as well as being commemorated on the Roll of Honour.

Thomas was 23 years of age.



## **STANLEY ROGERSON**

**Died of wounds 11<sup>th</sup> October 1918**

**Private Stanley Rogerson,  
Service no. PO/1929(S) 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Marine  
Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry,  
188<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 63<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Naval) Division.**



Stanley was born on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1898, the son of James a highways labourer and Martha Rogerson. In 1901 the family lived at 68 Manchester Road, Rixton and by the time of the war his mother was living at Church Terrace, Hollinfare. Stanley had three brothers: John born c. 1886, William c. 1887 and Alfred c. 1897, and a sister, Margaret c. 1895. Alfred served with the Manchester Regiment during the war.

Before the war Stanley was employed at the CWS Soap Works. He served in the British Expeditionary Force with the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Marine Battalion between 30<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and 28<sup>th</sup> November 1917 until he was invalided home due to illness. He returned to his battalion on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1918.

Stanley died of wounds at 18<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Etaples on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1918 at the age of 19. He is buried in the Etaples Military Cemetery, France.

Stanley is commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial and the Irlam Soap Works panel of the CWS Memorial in Balloon Street, Manchester.



## **GILES (VICTOR) ROWLES**

**Died of wounds 10<sup>th</sup> August 1915**

**Private Giles (Victor) Rowles,  
Service no. 1402,  
14<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force**



Giles later to be known as Victor was born at the Old Red Lion Inn, Hollinfare, March 1896 to landlady Mary Anne and Manchester Ship Canal pilot, Charles Rowles. Giles's father died 1903 and his mother died in 1909 when Giles was 13 years old. When Giles is 15 years old, he is found to be living in Cardiff with his late father's widowed sister-in-law, Louisa Rowles.

Giles enlisted on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1914 aged 18 years 7 months in Melbourne Australia. Giles, now calling himself Victor, gave his next of kin as Louisa. The 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion took part in the April landings at Gallipoli which he survived to take part in the August offensive. Presumably wounded whilst trying to land on the shores for the second time in 5 months, Giles was admitted to the hospital ship 'Davanah' with gunshot wounds dying at 10pm 10<sup>th</sup> August 1915. Giles was buried at sea aged 19.

Awarded 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal and commemorated on Lone Pine Memorial Turkey, Australian War Memorial Canberra and on the family headstone in Hollinfare Cemetery.





## **JOHN SCOTT**

**Died of wounds 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915**

**Lance Corporal John Scott, 10923 served with the 6<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment), 38<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 13<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division.**



John was born in Hollins Green and resided at 617 Liverpool Road, Irlam. This address was the same as that quoted by Samuel Barrett. It is likely that one or both of them were lodging at the property.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1914 he enlisted at Warrington, along with Edward Barker from Hollins Green. In June 1915 his battalion sailed for Helles at Gallipoli and on 4<sup>th</sup> August the battalion was moved to Anzac Cove, Gallipoli. He was seriously wounded and was evacuated from Gallipoli on a hospital ship and was subsequently taken to a military hospital in Alexandria, Egypt.

John died on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 1915, aged 23. He is buried at Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

John is commemorated on both the Irlam and Cadishead and Hollinfare War Memorials. Medal Entitlement: 15 Star Trio.



## JOHN TAYLOR

Killed in action 26<sup>th</sup> November 1917

**Private John Taylor, Service no. 29548 served with the 14<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry, 120<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 40<sup>th</sup> Division.**



John was born in Hollinfare on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1895. He was educated at the Hollins Green Day School and attended the Rixton Wesleyan Chapel. Before the war he was employed at the CWS Soap Works. His parents, Nathan and Mary Taylor (nee Hankinson), who married on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1892, later moved to 7 The Vista in Cadishead in the early 1930s.

John enlisted in Warrington in the Lancashire Regiment (Private 24919) and later transferred to the Highland Light Infantry. He had first served overseas in June 1916. Between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November the 40<sup>th</sup> Division attacked German positions in the Bourslon area during the Battle of Cambrai. John was killed in action on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 1917 at the age of 22. The officer of his battalion was a prisoner of war in Germany, and in a letter to his sister in Scotland he described how Private Taylor fell in action: *'The battalion was at [censored] on November 24<sup>th</sup> and on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> several companies went over to take a village. They reached their objectives, but their reinforcements failed to appear and the enemy worked his way right round our men and completely cut them off. They held out till they had neither food nor ammunition, and the casualties were very heavy.'*

John is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louveral, Nord in France and on the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## FRED YATES

Died of wounds 21<sup>st</sup> July 1917

**Private Fred Yates, Service no. 202913 served with the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorial Force), The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 55<sup>th</sup> (West Lancashire) Division.**



Fred was born and resided in Cadishead and married Phoebe Parker in 1915. He was employed, along with his father, in the Blue Department of the CWS Soap Works and he attended the Cadishead Wesleyan Church. His parents, Joseph and Sarah Ellen Yates, lived at 10 Square Fold, Cadishead.

Fred enlisted at Manchester on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1915 into the Manchester Regiment as Private 4774. His description was 5 foot 8 inches tall, with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He was immediately posted to the Army Reserve until 26<sup>th</sup> January 1916 when he was mobilized and posted to a Reserve Battalion of the Manchester's. On 4<sup>th</sup> August 1916 he embarked for France. Fred was wounded in action on the 10<sup>th</sup> September and once recovered, posted to the 24 Infantry Base Depot. Fred was posted back to the 1<sup>st</sup> /4<sup>th</sup> Loyals on 4<sup>th</sup> December and allocated a new regimental number, 202913.

On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 1917 Fred was wounded by a shell explosion and received a compound fracture of the right femur and his left leg was blown off. Fred died of wounds aged 23 on the same day at No.46 Field Ambulance. Fred is buried at Brandhoek Military Cemetery, Vlamertinghe, Ypres, Belgium. The inscription on his headstone reads: *'He died for his King and Country - with deepest regret from all at home'*.

Fred is commemorated on a family headstone in Hollinfare cemetery.



## **JOHN RAMSAY YOUNGER**

**Killed in action 6<sup>th</sup> May 1916**

**Second Lieutenant John Ramsay Younger  
leader of XII Platoon 'C' Company 15<sup>th</sup>  
Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers  
(1<sup>st</sup> Salford Pals).**



Known as Ramsey J Younger on the Glazebrook Roll of Honour, John joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1914.

John, son of James R Younger and Isabel nee McNiven was born Moss Side, Manchester, January 1896. On the death of his father in 1897 at only 34, his dressmaker mother along with his young sister Catherine moved to 21 Bank Street Glazebrook, the home of his uncle, 32 year old Telegraphist, David Henry McNiven.

Some ten years later in 1911, the family are living not a million miles away at Whitelake, Flixton where John is now 16 years old. On 26<sup>th</sup> September 1914 John's Uncle, now residing at Marlborough Rd, Flixton is married. Whether John Ramsay came back to Glazebrook to live or work between 1911-1914 is unknown but his inclusion on the Glazebrook Roll of Honour seals him in Glazebrook forever.

John died on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May aged 20 and he is buried in Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France and commemorated on Memorial E.25 and also on St. Michaels Memorial, Flixton. John Ramsay was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.



## In Flanders Fields

John McCrae, 1872 - 1918

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

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

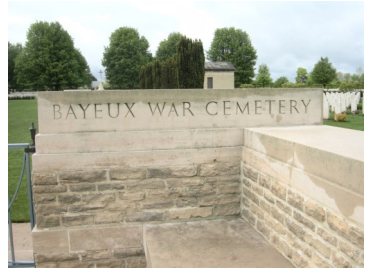
Take up our quarrel with the foe!  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high!  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



## JOHN BEIRNE

**Killed in action Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> August 1944**

**Private John Patrick Beirne, Service no. 4204985, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.**



Born in Wrexham in 1917, John was the son of John Price Beirne and Margaret Beirne, produce merchants from Wrexham. John was well-known in the Rixton Moss area, having from his boyhood days accompanied his father's vehicles on their regular visits for farm produce. John married Ellen Austin of Lymm View, Manchester Road, Rixton, on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1944.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was part of the 227 Brigade, 15<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division. Although his battalion landed in Normandy on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1944 it is believed that John joined them later as part of a reinforcement draft as he was still in England in early July.

John was killed in action on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> August 1944 during the fighting in Normandy, aged 27 years of age and married for only 21 days. He had served in the Army for 4 years.

John is buried at Bayeux War Cemetery, Normandy. He is not commemorated on any local War Memorial.



## WILLIAM CAWLEY

Lost at sea 16<sup>th</sup> November 1942

**Able Seaman William Cawley C/SSX32316**  
served with the Royal Navy on board the  
light cruiser *HMS Arethusa*.



In November *HMS Arethusa* left Alexandria to form a part of the escort for a convoy to Malta. On 16<sup>th</sup> November she was torpedoed by low flying enemy aircraft while 450 miles from port. The explosion and resulting fire took the lives of 156 men from the ship's complement of 500.

*Arethusa* was the only casualty of Operation Stoneage and the arrival of the other four merchant ships of convoy MW-13 effectively marked the end of the siege of Malta. *Arethusa* was badly damaged but managed, after a gallant struggle by her crew, to get back to Alexandria. Experts who examined her later in dry dock stated that it was a miracle she stayed afloat.

William was 24 years old, the son of William and Mary E. Cawley of Glazebrook, Lancashire.

William is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial and the Hollinfare War Memorial.





## KENNETH EDMONDS

**Killed on air operations 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1942**

**Sergeant Kenneth Edmonds,**

**Service no. 1288523,**

**Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.**

**Kenneth was a pilot in No. 26 Operational Training Unit.**



Kenneth was born in Rixton in December 1921, the son of Frank and Alice May Edmonds and the brother of Joyce. The family resided in Moss Side Lane and later in Dam Lane, Rixton. He was educated at St Helen's School and Urmston Grammar School and was a server at St Helen's Church, Hollinfare. After leaving school he was employed by Tootal, Broadhurst and Lee in Oxford Street, Manchester.

Kenneth received his pilot training in Canada before returning to England for active service. On one occasion he flew low over the village of Hollins Green, frightening the cows at Bartholomew's farm, for which he was rebuked. At 10.59pm on 1<sup>st</sup> June his Wellington bomber (HX375) took off from RAF Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, to carry out air operations against the industrial city of Essen, Germany. This was only their second mission, having previously taken part in a successful 1,000 bomber raid on Germany. Assembling the aircraft and crews for these large bomber raids was 'Bomber' Harris. The aircraft failed to return from the mission and it was presumed to have been lost due to enemy action. After the war, RAF investigations found that the Wellington had crashed into a warehouse in the centre of Antwerp at 1.30am on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There were no survivors.

Kenneth is commemorated on the Hollinfare War Memorial.



## LESLIE HILTON

Died on Active Service 26<sup>th</sup> June 1944

**Captain Leslie Herbert Hilton,  
Service no. 169780,  
Royal Army Dental Corps,  
199 Field Ambulance.**



Leslie was born in 1912 (birth registered at Stockport in June 1912). Leslie was the son of Herbert and Lilian Hilton (nee Charlesworth). Leslie married Elizabeth 'Queenie' Harvie at Wallasey in 1939 and they resided in Cadishead.

Leslie died in the United Kingdom and lies buried at Hollins Green Cemetery where his grave is marked by a private headstone, grave 393.

*"DUTY NOBLY DONE"*

Leslie was 32 years old.



## JOHN KILLEN

**Killed on air operations 17<sup>th</sup> December 1943**

**Flight Sergeant (air gunner) John Killen,  
Service no. 1055997 of 97 Squadron  
No. 8 Group, Bomber Command  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.**



John was the eldest son of James Melon Killen and Mary Victoria Killen (later Oswald) of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Before joining the RAF John worked for Vickers-Armstrong. He married Mildred Haslam of 65 New Moss Road, Cadishead at St Mary's Church, Cadishead on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1943. The couple had met earlier in the year and married after a whirlwind romance. Mildred served with the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, having volunteered at the age of 17 in 1940.

John was the rear gunner of James Kirkwood's crew in a Lancaster W4815 EM-C. Kirkwood's crew transferred from 207 to 97 Squadron for pathfinder duties, based at Bourn, Cambridgeshire. 97 Squadron was part of a special target marking section which also included 617 Squadron 'The Dambusters'. Their task was to illuminate the target for the following bombers. John had been home in Cadishead on a short leave and returned to his RAF station on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. The following day they took off in a Lancaster bomber to take part in a raid on Berlin. This was John's 22<sup>nd</sup> operational mission. What happened on their return later became known as Black Thursday. A thick fog had settled over the south of England and continued all the way to Yorkshire, shrouding all the airfields. Five of the 13 aircraft, including John's Lancaster, which took part in the raid crashed in the fog with the loss of all crew members.

22 year old John was buried with full military honours at Hollinfare Cemetery on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> December.



## HARRY SIMPSON

Died 7<sup>th</sup> December 1943

**Signalman Harry Simpson,  
Service no. 3533663,  
Royal Corps of Signals serving with 6<sup>th</sup>  
(Airborne) Division Signals.**



Harry was the son of John and Margaret Simpson, who lived at 4 Allenby Road, Cadishead and received official notification on the same day he was killed. Harry lived with his wife, Elsie, in Cadishead and had only been home on leave a week before his death. He was educated at Cadishead Council School and then Cadishead Senior School, before working at the foundry of Royles Engineering.

Harry joined the Army c.1939 and was serving with the Home Forces at the time of his death. Harry died as a result of an accident when his glider crashed during training on Salisbury Plain at 26 years of age.

Harry was buried at Hollins Green Cemetery, on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. The Army was represented by Captain Holbrooke and also one of Harry's friends from his Signals unit. Reverend Bakker officiated at the graveside and there were a large number of mourners present. The inscription on his headstone states:  
*'Deep in our hearts your memory remains until God unites us again'*

At the time, Harry's younger brother, Eric, was undergoing aircrew training in Canada.



## **RONALD SOUTHERN**

**Killed 17<sup>th</sup> July 1944**

**Private Ronald Driscoll Southern,  
Service no. 3389328 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion  
East Lancashire Regiment, 71<sup>st</sup> Brigade.**



Ronald was the adopted son of John and Sarah Arstall of 24 Lytherton Avenue, Cadishead. He married Lance Corporal Gladys May Ashley, Auxiliary Territorial Service, on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 1943 at St John's Church. Gladys was the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Ashley of Prospect Grange Farm, Irlam.

Ronald Driscoll Southern was killed in action whilst the 1<sup>st</sup> East Lancashire Regiment was engaged in fighting near Granville-sur-Odon. The 1<sup>st</sup> East Lancashires had landed at Juno Beach on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1944.

Ronald is buried at St Manvieu War Cemetery, Cheux, Normandy and is also commemorated on his family grave in Hollinfare Cemetery.

Ronald was 24 years old.



## FREDERICK STOKES

Lost at sea 20<sup>th</sup> September 1943

### Third Radio Officer Merchant Navy

Born in 1925 (birth registered at Barton I.), Frederick Raymond Stokes was the son of Fred and Adelaide Stokes (nee Williams) of Glazebrook. Frederick was educated at Stretford Grammar (1937 to 1941).



On Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 18 year old Frederick Raymond Stokes, Merchant Navy, was lost at sea, when the unescorted SS *Fort Longueuil* (London) was torpedoed by German U-boat U532 in the Indian Ocean, south west of Chagos archipelago. The SS *Fort Longueuil* was a defensively equipped merchant ship (DEMS). She was launched in Montreal in 1942, purchased by the USA War Shipping Administration and leased to the Ministry of War Transport. The ship's appointed manager was J. Chambers & Company, Lancashire Shipping Company, Liverpool. At approximately 3pm on 20<sup>th</sup> September she was struck by a torpedo near the bridge and sank quickly (within one minute). There was little opportunity for the crew to man the lifeboats. Of the 59 crew only two survived. Fred was one of the seamen who lost their lives on board the SS *Fort Longueuil*. The two survivors were Indian sailors who had a remarkable escape, spending 4½ months at sea before being taken prisoner by the Japanese.

Frederick is commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial, the Hollinfare War Memorial and in the Stretford Grammar School Memorial Book.



## Hollinfare War Memorial

The elegant sandstone memorial cross was erected in 1919 in honour of the fallen soldiers and sailors of Rixton and Glazebrook.

The memorial was constructed from a design by Sir Charles Nicholson at a cost of £196, which was raised by public subscription, and placed opposite St. Helen's Church. On the front of the cross are the names of the 12 fallen heroes, Ernest Aldridge, Edward Atherton, Edward Barker, Thomas Blundell, Ernest Castrey, Joseph Davies, William Bowker Farrington, Thomas Harrison, Richard Partington, Stanley Rogerson, John Scott and John Taylor.

The inscription reads: **REMEMBER THOSE MEN OF HOLLINFARE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1919**

The memorial was unveiled in November 1919 by Colonel Lyon, of Appleton Hall, in the presence of a large gathering of parishioners. Colonel Lyon spoke of the high privilege of being asked to unveil the memorial to the 12 fallen men and how their names would be handed down from generation to generation. He complimented the parish on the excellence of their taste, as the cross was in such good keeping with its surroundings.

Following the conclusion of the Second World War the names of the fallen local heroes William Cawley, Kenneth Edmonds and Raymond (Frederick) Stokes were added to the memorial along with the dates 1939 - 1945.

The memorial cross was listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, entry No.1392459.







Coronation tree in the early 1900s which was later relocated to make way for the war memorial





## Shine the Light Committee



In 2014 a group of local residents came together to look at ways to enhance the war memorial in Hollins Green and commemorate the 100-year anniversary of World War 1. To produce a lasting tribute, it was agreed that the war memorial should be gently up-lit. Thus the Shine the Light Committee was formed and they began their campaign to fulfil the project – permissions were obtained; surveys completed; opinions sought; fundraising events organised; costings explored; grant applications submitted – and 4 years later, in October 2018, the lights were installed!

The project cost £16,015 in total and the Committee are extremely grateful to everyone who supported it. Particular thanks must go to the 4 main funders:

Heritage Lottery Fund	£5,800
Rotary Club of Irlam	£2,800
Hamilton Davies Trust	£2,000
WBC Community Incentive Fund	£1,500

Also to Rixton-with-Glazebrook Parish Council who agreed to take ownership of the lights and meet any future maintenance costs.

To mark the 100-year anniversary and as a fitting finale to this fantastic project, the Committee hosted a special evening to remember the World War heroes of Rixton-with-Glazebrook. They also produced this booklet to commemorate the men from our parish who died whilst serving their country.





**LOTTERY FUNDED**



Special thanks to Pete Thomas and Neil Drum for giving  
Shine the Light permission to use biographies from their books  
'A District At War' and 'Two Towns Go To War'



***WHEN YOU GO HOME  
TELL THEM OF US AND SAY  
FOR YOUR TOMORROW  
WE GAVE OUR TODAY***

John Maxwell Edmonds 1916