

**Details of individual casualties, where known, N to W**  
**on Hoole & Newton World War I Memorial**

**NUTTALL, Samuel Vincent**



Regiment: 5th Bn. Cheshire Regiment  
 Rank: Private  
 Number: 241029  
 Died: 19 August 1917  
 Aged:  
 Buried/Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial  
 Address: 79 Hoole Road

**Cheshire Observer 3/11/17**

**MISSING**

*"Private Samuel V Nuttall*

*Cheshire regiment has been reported missing since August this year. He is a son of Mr & Mrs Nuttall of City House City Road Chester who have five other sons serving in the Army."*

The 1911 Census shows Samuel Vincent as a 14-year-old schoolboy living at 79 Hoole Road together with father Hargreaves, mother Emily, brothers Cecil Harold, Ernest Edgar, Albert Ernest and John Stanley, sister Ivy Evelyn and three boarders.



**PARKINSON, Frederick**



Regiment: 12th Bn. Cheshire Regiment  
 Rank: Private  
 Number: 15296  
 Died: 15 August 1916  
 Aged: 37  
 Buried/Memorial: Pieta Military Cemetery Malta  
 Address: 21 Pitt Street, Newtown

**Cheshire Observer 2/09/16**

**DEATH IN HOSPITAL**

*"Pte Fred Parkinson of the Cheshires has died in hospital. The deceased soldier, who was 26 years of age was a married man, and his widow and two children reside at 7 Castle Street Chester. With them in their bereavement much sympathy will be felt. Prior to enlisting in August 1914 Pte Parkinson was employed as a riveter at Abdula's shipbuilding yard at Queensferry. He also had been a bandsman in the Salvation Army at Chester for about three years, and a service to his memory is to be held on Sunday evening."*

On August 12th Mrs Parkinson received an official notification that her husband was lying ill in hospital. On the same date a letter was received from the sister of the hospital stating that the soldier had had a relapse and become much worse during the night, so that an operation was absolutely necessary. This was carried out during the morning and the patient got safely through but still was very ill indeed. He was having the best medical attention and that everything that could be done was being done.

On the 16th the sister again wrote, stating "I am very sorry indeed to have to tell you that, after all the care and attention we could give him, your husband died at 3:45 in the morning yesterday. He was very bright and cheerful to the last. On the day before he died he told the sister he had had the sign and when she asked what sign he said he would not be here the next day at the same time. He said God was very good. He sent his love for you and kisses for the children." In conclusion the sister says "I am very sorry for you in your great trouble. I had hoped he would have pulled through, he was so brave and plucky."

On Wednesday official intimation was received from the Records Office stating that 15296 Private Fred Parkinson Cheshire Regiment had died in a Mediterranean port. The cause of death was tuberculosis of the glands and appendicitis. A message also was received from the War minister expressing the true sympathy of the King and Queen."

The 1911 Census shows Fred as a 32-year-old French Polisher living at 4 Ward's Terrace with mother Mary, sister Margaret and two boarders.

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## PRICE, Thomas Charles

Regiment: XI Corps Cyclist Bn. Army Cyclist Corps

Rank: Private

Number: 14538

Died: 18 June 1918

Aged: 19

Buried/ Memorial: Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, France

Address: Westminster Schools, Hoole

### Chester Chronicle 22/06/18

#### SIGNALLER T.C. PRICE (DIED)

*"We regret to record the death, in hospital, at the age of 19, of 1st Class Brigade Signaller Thomas Chas. Price, Cycle Corps, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. C Price, 17 Princess Street, caretaker of the premises of Chester City Mission, and formally for 16 years, caretakers of the Westminster Schools, Hoole. He died on June 17th of fever.*

*Signaller Price attended All Saint's School, Hoole, and has been in the employ of Messrs. Morris and Watkin, and then of the L. and N.W. and G.W. Joint Railways, being sent as a clerk to do duty at Little Sutton.*

*He was a promising, well-liked young fellow, and all who knew him deeply sympathise with the bereaved parents in their loss. He attended Walker Street, Hoole, Congregational Church and Sunday School."*

The 1911 Census shows Thomas Price as a 12-year-old schoolboy at School House Westminster Road School Hoole Chester along with father Charles and mother Martha, brothers Godfrey and William, sister Ceciline along with Jack Price a visitor and William Bennion a pensioner boarding with them.

The 1901 Census shows Thomas as 2 years old with father Charles and mother Martha at Westminster School Westminster Road Hoole.



NAME.	Grade.	Station Employed.	Naval or Military Rank.
PRESTAGE, G. W.	Carriage Cleaner	Willenden N.	Private.
PRICE, F.	Carter	Netherton	Private.
PRICE, G. H.	Draughtsman	Lancaster	Sapper.
PRICE, G. T.	Porter	Chester	Private.
PRICE, H. V.	Clerk	Hednesford	Corporal.
PRICE, J.	Carter	Oldham	Sergeant.
PRICE, J. L.	Carter	Rhyl	Private.
PRICE, L. S.	Junior Porter	London Road.	Private.
PRICE, T. C.	Clerk	Little Sutton	Private.

## RABY, Frank Armstrong

Regiment: 45th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
Rank: Sergeant  
Number: 90402  
Died: 31 July 1917  
Aged: 26  
Buried/ Memorial: Potijze Chateau Lawn Cemetery, Belgium  
Address: 13 Vicarage Road, Hoole

### Cheshire Observer 16/01/15

*"Tomorrow (Sunday) Corpl Frank Raby of Vicarage Road Hoole, who has been at the front some time with the Chester RAMC (territorials) returns to France after seven days leave, which has been spent at home. He is in good health and fit."*

### Chester Chronicle 11/08/17

#### SERGEANT FRANK RABY (KILLED)

*"Sergeant Frank Raby, R.A.M.C., second son of the late Mr. E.J. Raby, Vicarage Road, Hoole, has been killed in action. He was aged 26 and an old King's School boy."*

### Chester Chronicle 11/08/17

*"Sergeant Frank Raby, R.A.M.C., killed in action, was a son of the late Mr E.J. Raby, a partner in Huke's Library, Chester, and of Mrs. Raby, now of St. John's Cottage, Canal Street. It appears that Sergeant Raby was hit by a piece of shell when out collecting wounded men under fire on July 31st. He was an old King's School boy, was 26 years of age, and had been an N.C.O. in the local Territorial Force, R.A.M.C. which was the first territorial R.A.M.C. unit to go to the front. Before the war he was a dental student at Liverpool University and had passed nearly all of his examinations. He had done excellent work at the front and was most highly spoken of by his officers."*

The 1911 Census shows Frank as a 20-year-old dental student living at 13 Vicarage Road with father Edward, mother Minnie, brother Frederick and sisters Edith, Winifred and Dorothy.

CHESHIRE TERRITORIALS FOR THE FRONT.



Our photograph shows the men of the Cheshire R.A.M.C. (T.F.) who have volunteered to go to the front with the 4th Cavalry Brigade, to which they are now attached. They will probably be the first Cheshire Territorials to see to the front. The names of the men are:-  
TOP ROW (STANDING):-Percy A. R. Williams (1886), J. R. R. (1886), A. J. Payne, W. R. R. (1886), H. R. R. (1886),  
R. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), A. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), F. A. R. (1886),  
MIDDLE ROW (SEATED):-Percy A. R. Williams (1886), J. R. R. (1886), A. J. Payne, W. R. R. (1886), H. R. R. (1886),  
R. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), A. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), F. A. R. (1886),  
BOTTOM ROW (KNEELING):-Percy A. R. Williams (1886), J. R. R. (1886), A. J. Payne, W. R. R. (1886), H. R. R. (1886),  
R. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), A. R. R. (1886), R. R. R. (1886), F. A. R. (1886).



## ROBERTS, William

Regiment: Royal Irish Rifles  
Rank: Rifleman  
Number: 2283  
Died: 09 May 1915  
Aged: 19  
Buried/ Memorial: Ploegsteert Memorial  
Address: 6 Wards Terrace, Hoole

### Chester Chronicle 3/06/16

#### CHESTER SOLDIER'S FATE

*"By an official intimation in April this year the fate of Rifleman William Roberts, son of Mrs Elizabeth A. [and William] Roberts, widow, of 31 Westminster Road is now known. He enlisted on 1st December 1914 when 18 years of age, in the Royal Irish Rifles. He went to France with the regiment in April 1915 and was reported missing on 9th May 1915. The communication from the War Office states that he must be regarded as killed on the date named. He was a scholar at All Saints school and was for*



seven years in the scouts (1st Cheshire) and at the time of joining the forces was assistant scoutmaster. He was well liked by all who knew him and sympathy will be felt for his mother at his death."

The 1911 Census shows William as a 15-year-old clerk living at 31 Westminster Road with father William, mother Elizabeth, brothers John Stanley (who also died in the Great War) and Norman and sisters Annie and Lillie.

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## ROBERTSON, Gordon



Regiment: 10th Bn. Gordon Highlanders

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Number:

Died: 17 November 1915

Aged: 22

Buried/ Memorial: Vermelles British Cemetery, France

Address: The Cottage, Flookersbrook, Chester

### **Chester Chronicle 4/12/15**

**SECOND LIEUT. GORDON ROBERTSON KILLED  
CHESTER RAILWAY OFFICIAL'S BEREAVEMENT**

*"We much regret to announce that a brief intimation has reached Mr David Robertson, of The Cottage, Flookersbrook, and the superintendent's office, L. and N.W. Rly., at Chester Station that his son, Sec. Lieut. Gordon Robertson, of the 10th Battalion Gordon Highlanders, has been killed in action in France.*

*Sec. Lieut. Robertson was a bright and promising young fellow with a successful career before him, and was a great favourite among his friends and acquaintances. He received his early education at St. Paul's School, Boughton, and then passed on to the Technical School at the Grosvenor Museum. From there he proceeded to Liverpool University to complete his education, and took his B.A. Six Months ago he left the University to join the forces, and was appointed second lieutenant in the Gordon Highlanders. He went out to the front with the 10th Battalion about six weeks ago. The notification received by wire states that he was killed on the 17th inst. Lieut. Robertson was 22 years of age. One of his uncles is Mr John Gordon, a former mayor of Leeds. Much sympathy is felt for Mr David Robertson and family in the heavy blow that has befallen them."*

### **Chronicle 18/12/15**

**THE LATE SECOND LIEUT. ROBERTSON  
IN MEMORIAM SERVICE AT BOUGHTON**

*"An impressive memorial service was held at St Paul's Church, Boughton on Thursday last. Evident signs were to be seen amongst the congregation of mourning for loved ones, the service not merely being intended as a memorial for one, but for four soldiers, Second Lieutenant Gordon Robertson, of the Gordon Highlanders; Gunner Wm. Dixon, an old choir boy, of the Royal Field Artillery; Arthur Webb, of the 1st Wiltshire Regiment; and Frederick Walker of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The service was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. J.R. Fuller, Minor Canon Williams, the curate, also being present. Lying before the altar was a large Union Jack, and members of each of the soldiers' families were present. The service commenced with a processional, to the music of Troyte, followed by Psalm xxxix. "I said I will take heed to my ways." Then followed the special lesson and the hymn, "Brief life is here our portion". "I heard a voice" was sung to the music of Troyte. The Vicar read the collects and prayers and the second hymn was "On the resurrection morning." The service concluded with the singing as a recessional of Nunc Dimittis (Barnby) and the playing of Chopin's beautiful "Funeral March" by the organist, Mr R. Thomas. There was a full choir present."*

The 1911 Census shows Gordon as a 17-year-old student teacher living at The Cottage Flookersbrook with father David, mother Anna, brother Ian and sister Janet.

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## **SPEED, Harold Stanley**

Regiment: 13th Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers

Rank: Private

Number: 238104

Died: 31 August 1918

Aged: 21

Buried/ Memorial: Morval British Cemetery, France

Address: 9 Pickering Street, Hoole

### **Chester Chronicle 21/09/18**

PTE. H.S. SPEED, HOOLE (KILLED)

*"News has been received of the death in action of Pte. Harold Stanley Speed, 238104 R.W.F., whose home is at Pickering Street, Hoole. Pte. Speed joined the Cyclist's Corps in September 1915, at the age of 18. He served for two years in this country and was transferred to the Welsh Regt. With which he went to France in September, 1917. He was subsequently transferred to the R.W.F. and fell while serving with that regiment on the 1st September. Pte. Speed was 21 and before joining the army was employed by the Hydraulic Engineering Co. He was an old All Saint's, Hoole boy. Writing to Pte. Speed's mother, the captain of his company says, - "During the recent fighting the behaviour of your son was magnificent. He died during an attack on - on September 1st. It may be consolation to you in your great trouble to know that death was instantaneous, and that he died doing his duty, brave and fearless to the end. He was a splendid soldier, and was always ready to do his share of the great work."*

The 1911 Census shows Harold as a 13-year-old schoolboy living at 9 Pickering Street with father Albert, mother Hannah and brother Douglas.

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## **STRINGER, William**



Regiment: 9th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers/ Cheshire Regiment

Rank: Private

Number: 37417

Died: 5 December 1916

Aged: 21

Buried/ Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, France

Address: The Beeches, Hamilton Street, Hoole

### **Cheshire Observer 30/12/16**

*"The above is a photograph of Pte William Stringer of the Lancs Fusiliers whose parents Mr and Mrs R Stringer of 19 Hamilton Street Hoole have received official notification that he has been killed in action. Pte Stringer was only 21 years of age. He attested under the Derby scheme and "joined up" in January last going on active service in September. He was an only son and prior to joining the Forces was in the employment of Messrs Hart Davies and Son Eastgate Street Row. Pte Stringer was well known in the city and district. His name appears on the roll of honour of Ellesmere College."*

### **Chester Chronicle 30/12/16**

PTE W. STRINGER KILLED

*"Mr & Mrs Robert Stringer, The Beeches, Hamilton Street, Hoole, have received official intimation that their only son, Pte. William Stringer, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, was killed in action on 5th December. Pte. Stringer, who was 21 years of age, joined the colours on 27th January last and went to the front in September. Previous to joining the army he was in the employ of Mr Hart Davies, Eastgate Row. He was educated at All Saints School and Ellesmere College. Pte. Stringer was well known and highly esteemed by many his friends and much sympathy will be extended to his parents."*

The 1911 Census shows William as a 16-year-old errand boy living at 18 Hamilton Street with father Robert, mother Fanny, sister Cissie, his cousin John and Harriet Bramley, a domestic servant.

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## **SUMPTER, Andrew**

Regiment: 10th Bn. Cheshire Regiment  
Rank: Private  
Number: 35147  
Died: 1 August 1917  
Aged: 26  
Buried/ Memorial: Ypres, Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium  
Address: 1 Shavington Ave, Hoole

### **Chester Chronicle 18/08/17**

#### **PRIVATE A. SUMPTER (DIED OF WOUNDS)**

*"Private Andrew Sumpter, Cheshire Regiment, son of the late Mr. H. Sumpter and Mrs. Sumpter, 1 Shavington Ave, Hoole, has died of wounds. An old Arnold House boy, he was farming in New Zealand when the war broke out and he came back to the old country to join up. He joined the army in February 1916, and went to the front in June the same year."*

The 1911 Census shows Andrew as a 19-year-old plumber living at Brookside Brook Lane with his father Henry, mother Sarah, sister Elizabeth and brother Harry. Also present were William Bates, a friend and Annie Pendleton a maid.

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## **SUMPTER, James**

Regiment: 6th Bn. South Wales Borderers  
Rank: Private  
Number: 40710  
Died: 17 October 1918  
Aged: 32  
Buried/ Memorial: Hautmont Comm Cemetery Mauberge  
Address: 84 Westminster Road, Hoole

### **Cheshire Observer 10/08/18**

#### **WAR ITEMS**

*"Mrs Sumpter 84 Westminster Road Chester has received news that her husband Private Jas Sumpter, South Wales Borderers is a prisoner of war in Germany."*

*According to Red Cross records James was in 4 Platoon A Company of the 6th Battalion SWB and had been "missing" since 8 April 1918."*

The 1911 Census shows James as an 18-year-old plasterer's apprentice living at 42 Westminster Road together with father James, mother Annie, brothers William (who served in Egypt and Salonika), Albert and Earnest and sisters Jessie, Nellie and Winifred.

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## TANNER, James Henry



Regiment: Royal Army Medical Corps

Rank: Private

Number: 67238

Died: 12 July 1916

Aged: 25

Buried/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial

Address: 35 Lightfoot Street, Hoole

### Cheshire Observer 26/08/16

#### HOOLE RAMC MAN KILLED

*"We regret to announce that Mr S Tanner of 35 Lightfoot Street Hoole has received official news of the death of his son Pte J H Tanner of the RAMC. Prior to the War Tanner was employed at Messrs Wymans bookstall at the General Railway Station. Tanner answered the call to arms soon after the outbreak of the War joining the RAMC and went to the Front in November last. Deceased was 26 years of age. Mr Tanner has received the following letter from his son's officer: -*

*"Dear Sir - in reply to your letter of Aug 8th I very much regret to say that your son was killed by a shell in ----- Wood while in the performance of his duty as a stretcher bearer on the 12th July. He was killed instantaneously with another of his comrades. Heavy fighting was in progress and numbers of wounded were being removed and succoured. I would like to convey to you and to his mother my sincere sympathy in the loss you have sustained and I hope it will be a consolation to you to know that he met his end while bravely carrying help to the wounded. He has always been an excellent character in this unit and his loss was deplored by all ranks. With the sincere sympathy of us all in your great loss I remain yours truly Officer Commanding RAMC."*

The 1911 Census shows James as a 20-year-old bookseller's assistant living at 16 Milton Street with father James, mother Sarah and brothers John, Albert and William.

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## TASKER, F.P.



Regiment: 16th Bn. Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Number:

Died: 6 October 1917

Aged: 23

Buried/ Memorial: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium

Address: Moulson House, Hoole Road, Hoole

### Chester Chronicle 20/10/17

#### SECOND LIEUT. F.P. TASKER (DIED OF WOUNDS)

*"Second Lieut. F.P. Tasker, Warwickshire Regiment, whose death from wounds was reported in last week's "Chronicle". The Secretary of State for War has expressed his great sympathy with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Tasker, in their great sorrow. Second Lieut. Tasker was 23 years of age, was educated at Hawarden County School, and was a pre(?)ium apprentice at Sandycroft Foundry. He served in the Cheshire Territorials until he took a commission.*

*The Rev. W. L. Archer, chaplain to the Forces, writing to Mr W.W. Tasker says, - "My dear Mr. Tasker, - You will have before this the very sad news. Your son did not rally, but kept sinking and on Saturday evening passed quietly away. It must have been the effects of shock rather than of the wounds themselves. He had little pain, but seemed to be just used up. We have laid his body to rest in our cemetery where a cross will mark his grave. I am glad to be able to assure you that everything*

possible was done for him. It is something that his last hours could be spent in a comfortable ward and with little suffering. I know what a blow it must be to you, but I know also what your pride must be. The greater the sacrifice, the more the honour, the bravery involved. Because our men are invaluablely dear, their offering and devotion must bring us to success. May God give him rest in His Paradise and Himself be your comfort and strength. – Yours sincerely, W. L. Archer”

THE LATE SEC. LIEUT. F.P. TASKER

COMPANY'S OFFICER'S TRIBUTE

“Yesterday (Friday), Mr. W.W. Tasker received the following sympathetic letter from his son's company officer:- “Dear Mr. Tasker, - You will by the time you receive this letter have been notified of the death in action of your son, Second Lieut. Tasker. I am writing to ask you to accept my deepest sympathy with you in your sorrow. His long fighting experience, his gift of leadership, and his personal bravery made him a very valuable officer. His Loss to the company is most keenly felt. Words of consolation are almost impossible to write, but you may obtain some little from the nature of his death through which one may perhaps learn the lesson of submission and hope. My present painful duty is but a repetition of many similar, and I number with your son most of my friends. Those of us that remain will struggle on with sterner resolve that the willing self-sacrifice of our heroes shall not be in vain. – I am yours obediently, L. Sayer (Capt.)

F P Tasker was originally in the B Company 5th Battalion Cheshire Regiment arriving in France on 14 February 1915. He was commissioned as a Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 29th May 1917.”

The 1911 Census shows him as a 16-year-old schoolboy, living at Moulson House Hoole Road with father William, mother Amelie, brother Eric and domestic servant Jane Nield.

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## TAYLOR, Harold



Regiment: 1st Bn. Loyal North Lancashire regiment

Rank: Lance Corporal

Number: 26817

Died: 26 September 1916

Aged: 20

Buried/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial

Address: 34 Vicarage Road, Hoole

### Cheshire Observer 4/11/16

#### PTE H. TAYLOR KILLED

“Private H Taylor 26817 Loyal N Lancs Regiment formerly of the Cheshire Regiment is officially reported as killed on Sept 26 after being reported missing since the 26th Sept 1916. Before enlisting he was a clerk in the L and N W goods office at Chester and was in the Territorials. He went to the Front on 30th August 1916. His home is at 34 Vicarage Road Hoole.”

The 1911 Census shows Harold as a 15-year-old railway goods guard living at 13 Walker Street with father Albert, mother Miriam and brothers George, Frank and Albert.

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## TILSTON, John Edward

Regiment: 154 Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Number:

Died: 23 April 1917

Aged:

Buried/Memorial: Arras Memorial

Address:

### Cheshire Observer 12/05/17

#### KILLED IN ACTION

*"TILSTON Killed in action 23rd April 1917 John Edward Tilston 2nd Lieutenant Machine Gun Corps only son of Harry and Eva Tilston of Glasgow and Buenos Ayres."*

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## WALKER, Samuel



Regiment: 2nd Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Rank: Private

Number: 8457

Died: 22 June 1916

Aged:

Buried/Memorial: Loos Memorial

Address: 64 Phillip Street and 14 Bishop Street

*"We regret to learn that information has reached Chester stating that 84577 Pte Samuel Walker of a line battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers has been killed at the front. The news is particularly sad as the private had participated in all the fighting since the outbreak of war and engaged in many daring enterprises. He, however, came through with only one injury and at last has fallen a victim of a mine exploded by the enemy."*

*Pte Walker whose home is at 64 Phillip Street Hoole saw a number of years service with the Colours and had been eight years in India. For two years before the outbreak of war, while a reservist, he was employed at the London & North Western wagon works. Called up at the declaration of war he landed in France on August 10th and participated in the memorable retreat from Mons. Since then he has been in the many engagements in which the Royal Welsh Fusiliers have earned undying fame. He was mentioned in despatches for going into the German trenches on several bombing raids within a week, his work being that of bomb-thrower. He was home in Chester in January of last year. A short time ago his wife received a message from the War Office stating that her husband was missing. She communicated with the commanding officer of the regiment and has received a reply stating; - "Your husband was last seen in the trench prior to the explosion of the mine on June 22nd and I very much regret to say that there is no doubt he was killed instantaneously. It grieves me very much to lose such a gallant soldier. He was greatly loved by his comrades and was a splendid example of what a soldier should be."*

*Pte Walker who was a native of Hoole, and had a brother in the Army leaves a widow. His only child was buried in May of last year."*

The 1901 Census shows Samuel as a 16-year-old stable boy/groom living at 3 Bishop Street with his brother William and widowed step-mother Annie.

In 1911 it appears that he was serving with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in India.

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## WALTERS, William Henry

Regiment: 20th Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

Rank: Lance Corporal

Number: 49315

Died: 31 July 1917

Aged: 40

Buried/ Memorial: Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium

Address: 19 Lime Grove, Hoole

### Chester Chronicle 25/08/17

#### LANCE CORPORAL W.H. WALTERS (KILLED)

*"Lance-Corpl. Wm. Henry Walters, King's Liverpool Regiment, has been killed in action. He was 40 years of age, lived at 19, Lime Grove, Hoole, and had been for over 20 years a clerk in the offices of Messrs. Potts, Potts and Gardener, solicitors, Chester. The news of his death has been received with great regret. He was highly esteemed by his employers and colleagues, and his manly qualities won him the warm regard of all who know him. He was eager to join the army soon after war broke out, but circumstances did not permit of his wish being gratified until June 1916, when he enlisted in the Liverpool Scottish. He went to the front in October of the same year and was attached, when out there, to another battalion. In the early part of January this year he was invalided home with trench feet, and was for a time at hospital in Oswestry. He was then sent down to Pembroke Dock and attached to another battalion. When again sent out to the front he was attached to still another battalion, this making four in all in which he had served. He fell on July 31st at a place not stated. A tall sturdy fellow, keen and smart in performing his duties, he made a first class soldier and would, had he been spared, undoubtedly have obtained further promotion, and probably the opportunity of taking a commission. Before enlisting he drilled with the Cheshire Volunteers for the purpose of obtaining a preliminary training. He was very well known in the city and was, when living in Handbridge before his marriage, a popular member of the Handbridge Institute. Deep sympathy is felt for his widow in her sad bereavement. There is no family. Messrs. Potts, Potts and Gardener have now lost three members of their staff in the war, the others being Second Lieut. Charles Potts (Cheshire Regiment) and Second Lieut. Burrell (Cheshire Regiment)."*

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## WALTON, Arthur

Regiment: 62nd Field Ambulance Royal Army Medical Corps

Rank: Private

Number: 40281

Died: 24 October 1918

Aged: 27

Buried/ Memorial: Chester (Overleigh) Cemetery

Address: 1 South Avenue, Hoole

### Chester Chronicle 26/10/18

#### PTE. ARTHUR WALTON (DIED)

*"We regret to learn of the death of Pte. Arthur Walton, R.A.M.C., at King George's Hospital, London, from pneumonia, at the age of 27. Pte. Walton was taken prisoner of war last November and was repatriated on October 12th. He joined the army in September 1914 and went abroad in May of the following year. He was a shunter on the Joint Railway at Chester and his home is at 1, South Avenue, Hoole, Chester. A brother is serving with the colours, and two other brothers have been discharged after service. Pte. Walton was a member of the P.S.A. at Chester and was connected with St. Paul's Bible Class."*



## **WATSON, Geoffrey William**

Regiment: 11th Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Rank: Second Lieutenant

Number:

Died: 1 August 1917

Aged: 21

Buried/ Memorial: Ypres, Menin Gate Memorial, Belgium

Address: 23 Shavington Avenue, Hoole

### **Cheshire Observer 11/08/17**

PRO PATRIA

ANOTHER CHESTER OFFICER KILLED

SEC- LIEUT G W WATSON

*"It is our painful duty today to chronicle the death of yet another young Cheshire officer Sec Lieut Geoffrey William Watson of the Cheshire Regiment, second son of Mr and Mrs R H Watson of Shavington Avenue Hoole. The mournful news was received on Tuesday in a telegram....the War office: "Deeply regret to inform you Sec Lieut G W Watson Cheshire regiment was killed in action August 1st." The customary sympathy from the War .... was appended. Sec Lieut Mick Watson as he was affectionately known had many friends in the Chester district. He left Chester in July 1913, on being awarded a scholarship at Holmes Chapel where he was when War broke out. In November along with many of his fellow students he enlisted 2nd Batt of the Public Schools Battalion Royal Fusiliers with which.....active service in France.....for a commission in the Army. ...his training in the 6th cadet battalion Trinity College Oxford and Cheshire Regiment in July. 19th November.....He was home on leave and returned.....in the beginning of July. He.....as Sec Lieut.....Mr and Mrs.....was unfortunately killed in June. Sec Lieut G W Watson's elder brother Noel, a Sec Lieut also in the Cheshires...being wounded in France is now serving in another battle Front. The deepest sympathy will be extended to the bereaved parents and family in the loss of a bright.....who made friends wherever he went."*

### **Chester Chronicle 11/08/17**

SECOND LIEUT. G.W. WATSON (KILLED)

*"It is with deep regret that we announce that Second Lieutenant Geoffrey William ("Mick") Watson, Cheshire Regiment, has been killed in action. The second son of Mr and Mrs. Watson, 23 Shavington Avenue, he was educated at the King's School, Chester and left in 1913 to become a student at the Holmes Chapel Agricultural College, where he had won a scholarship. When war broke out he enlisted (November 1914) in the Public Schools Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, and in July, 1916, he received a commission in the Cheshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 1st August. He was in the same battalion as Second Lieut. Charles Potts, son of Mr. And Mrs. Hubert Potts, who fell in action last month. Deep sympathy will be felt for the parents in the loss of a son who promised to have a most successful career, and was esteemed by all who knew him. The late Second Lieut. G.W. Watson's elder brother, Noel, is a Second Lieut. also in the Cheshires, and after being wounded in France, is now serving on another battle front."*

The 1911 Census shows Geoffrey as a 14-year-old school boy living at 23 Shavington Avenue together with father Robert, mother Charlotte brothers John Noel and Henry, sisters Christine and Winifrede and domestic servant Lucy Wrench.

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## WILBRAHAM, Frank



Regiment: 11th Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Rank: Private

Number: 4130

Died: 11 August 1916

Aged: 23

Buried/Memorial: Couin British Cemetery

Address: 14 Pipers Ash

**Cheshire Observer 26/08/16**

ANOTHER ELLESMERE PORT HERO

*"We regret to report the death of another member of the Ellesmere port branch of the Church of England Men's Society in Pte Frank Wilbraham of the Cheshire Territorials. His home was at Piper's Ash Chester and he lived with Mr T W Pritchard Ellesmere Port being employed at the King Flour Mill as a siloman. He was only 23 years of age and had been at the Front but four weeks but had been with the Colours nearly twelve months. Pte Wilbraham along with Pte J Taylor whose death we also report in this issue was a prominent worker at the parish church and had given most interesting papers at the CEMS meetings. He also assisted with the Sunday morning service at the Institute and was exceedingly popular with all who knew him. The news of his death came from a field hospital to Mrs Wilbraham and says Pte Wilbraham was brought to the hospital suffering from a wound in the head. He died six hours after admission without regaining consciousness. The news has been officially confirmed by a War Office message which states that his death occurred on July 11th.*

*The sympathy of all our readers particularly of Ellesmere Port church people with whom he worked goes out to his relatives in their great loss. Pte Wilbraham had on several occasions given addresses at the PSA and was a man of a type we can ill afford to lose."*

The 1911 Census shows Frank as an 18-year-old miller living at 14 Piper's Ash with father Thomas, mother Margaret and brothers Thomas, Frederick, Sydney and Charlie and sisters Margaret, Sarah and Florence.

It is sad to note that brothers Frederick and Sydney also lost their lives in The Great War and are also commemorated on the Hoole & Newton War Memorial.

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## WILLIAMS, John George

Regiment: Army Service Corps

Rank: Private

Number: MS/310

Died: 17 April 1918

Aged: 37

Buried/ Memorial: Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, France

Address: 21 Ermine Road, Hoole

**Chester Chronicle 4/05/18**

WILLIAMS, PTE. J.G. (KILLED IN ACTION)

*"We regret to learn that Pte. J.G. Williams, Army Service Corps, was killed in action on 17th April. Pte. Williams lived at 21, Ermine Road, Chester. He worked at Messrs. Williams, the Kaleyards, and was a well known footballer, having played for Chester Rovers, Newton Rangers and the Castle Garrison teams. Much sympathy will be felt for his widow and six children. Letters from his Major and comrades testify to the high esteem in which Pte. Williams was held in his regiment."*

The 1911 Census shows John as a 30-year-old leaded light glassmaker living at 75 Francis Street with wife Margaret, daughters Margaret, Violet, Elena and Rose along with brother in law Samuel.

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*Researched and written by Dave Rees, Hoole History & Heritage Society, with additional research by Alison Greenwood*

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