

Garston Docks Stories

Edward Alfred Nicholls was a private in the 18th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was born in Liverpool in 1899 and his father died in 1911. He enlisted in September 1915 in the 18th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps and having spent time on the Italian front the battalion were transferred to France in early March 1918. On 30th September the Battalion remained in reserve in the neighbourhood of Villiars Farm. On October 1st the battalion marched as part of 122nd Brigade group via Ten Brielen and America Ridge with the intention of occupying Menin. Slight casualties were sustained from shell fire east of America Ridge. The advance guard encountered strong resistance, and about midday the advance was checked. Orders for an immediate attack were received at 7.30pm, the Battalion being then under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire. Edward was killed during this action. He is remembered in the Zantvoorde British Cemetery.

Ernest Dodd was a Lance Corporal in the 1st/10th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment. He was born in Connah's Quay, North Wales on 8th May 1885 and before the war he working as a clerk in the Commercial Handling Department of the London North-Western Railway. In 1911 he was a messenger at the goods depot of the London North-Western Railway and he enlisted in the 10th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment at the outbreak of war and was assigned to the signal section. On 24th November 1917 he married Elizabeth Edwards at St Mary's Church, Grassendale, Liverpool. Ernest was killed in action on 19th June 1918 and was buried at Houchin British Cemetery. The battalion war diary stated that during the early part of 19th June the battalion area near Le Plantin received considerable attention, though the enemy artillery later in the day was negligible. It is possible Ernest was killed during the earlier shelling.

Frank Grace Newbold was a Sapper in the 24th Broad Gauge Operating Company Royal Engineers. He was born in Garston, Liverpool in 1887. He married Sarah Ellen Standish on 16th March 1917 at St Paul's Church, Stoneycroft, Liverpool. Frank enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1917 and was posted to France. He was still waiting to be demobbed when he returned home on leave in February 1919 and died of pneumonia at home on 27th February 1919. He was living with Sarah at 41 Vineyard Street, Garston.

Kenneth Samuel McIver was a Staff Sergeant in the West Lancashire Field Ambulance. He was born on 3rd September 1896 in Liverpool. Before the war he was working as a clerk in a Cotton Merchants Office. On 22nd July 1912 Kenneth joined London and Northwestern Railway employed at Garston Docks as a junior clerk. On 9th December 1912 he enlisted in Liverpool in the 1st West Lancashire Field Ambulance, initially for four years. In February 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. On 22nd September 1916 he was sent to France as part of the Expeditionary Force. He was killed in action on 3rd May 1917.

Reuben Hoose was a Rifleman in 'C' Company 1st/6th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment. He was born in Runcorn in 1892. Before the war he was working as a clerk for London North Western Railway. At the outbreak of war Reuben enlisted in 6th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment. He landed in France on 12th October 1915 and was killed in action on 12th August 1916 at the Battle of the Somme during intense fighting around Guillemont. The battalion suffered significant casualties during this period while pushing forward under heavy artillery fire.

Thomas Frederick Wyke was a Corporal in the Seaforth Highlanders. Thomas (known as Fred) was born in Woolton, Liverpool on 7th December 1892. Before the war he was working as a clerk in the dock office for North London Railway. Fred enlisted in Liverpool originally in the Dragoons 5th Reserve Cavalry Regiment (Royal Scots Greys). When he found that the Scots Greys were not going abroad, he

transferred to 7th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders. On 16th November 1915 he was shot by a sniper whilst picking up the belongings of a comrade who had been wounded. He is remembered on the Menin Gate memorial at Ypres, Belgium. Thomas was a member of Island Road Garston and Social Football Club. Thomas's brother Henry also served WW1 in RFA serial No 56544.



Thomas Wyke

