

Union Rooms Mission Church, Marple



Burt Morris was a private in the 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment.



He was born in 1896 in Offerton, Cheshire. He was the son of Ezra and Mary Anne Morris. His father was born in Ashton under Lyne, Lancashire and his mother was born in Darwen, Lancashire.

In 1901 Burt was living with his parents and sisters Ethel, Lucy and Mary. His father was a farm labourer.

In 1911 Burt was living with his parents and sisters Ethel, Lucy, Mary and Hilda. His father was a council labourer, and Burt was a cotton spinner.

Before the war Burt attended the Union Rooms Sunday School, Marple and worked as a card cutter at the Hollins Mill.

Burt enlisted in the Cheshire Regiment in Stockport and was sent to France in 1914. He was wounded on the Somme in September 1916 when he was hit with shrapnel in the leg and invalided home. After a month in hospital, he went to Oswestry before returning to France in February 1917.

He was killed in action on 7th June 1917. On 7th June 1917, the 10th (Service) Battalion, Cheshire Regiment took part in the opening day of the Battle of Messines in Belgium, capturing a German Maxim machine gun during the intense fighting.

The news of Burt's death came from the Captain of his company who wrote to his father "It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you of the death of your son, Private Burt Morris, who was killed in action whilst taking part in the attack on Messines Ridge, on June 7th. His cheerfulness and

comradeship endeared him to us all. On behalf of the company, I should like to express our deepest sympathy with you in your sad loss”.

Fred Pickford was a private in the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment.



He was born in Marple, Cheshire in 1896 and was baptised in Marple on 13th December 1896. He was the son of William and Fanny Pickford (Daniel). His father was born in New Brighton, Cheshire and his mother was born in Poynton, Cheshire.

In 1911 Fred was living with his parents, brother Raymond and sisters Mary and Everlen at 95 Church Lane, Marple. His father was a wheelwright, and Fred was a mule spinner at a cotton mill. His father died in August 1914 with the funeral taking place at All Saints Church, Marple where he had been a bell ringer for six years.

Before the war Fred attended Marple Recreation Club, Marple Union Mission Church and Sunday School. He also worked at a munitions factory in Hyde and had been a bandleader of the Marple Company of the 5th Battalion Cheshire Volunteers. Fred enlisted in the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment in Stockport.

His brother Raymond was killed in action on 8th October 1918. Fred died of wounds on 25th October 1918 having only been in France for two weeks and survived his first and last major action during the final advance in Picardy. On 23rd October he was wounded in the groin when his battalion was being relieved from the front line. He was evacuated to either 38 or 45 Casualty Clearing Station at Awoingt but would die from his wounds on 25th October.

Frederick Joseph Thelwell was a private in the 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment.



He was born in 1892 in Marple, Cheshire the son of Charles and Hannah Maria Thelwall. His father was born in Marple, and his mother was born in Miles Platting, Manchester.

In 1911 Fred was living with his parents, brother Samuel and sister Maud at 29 Hollins Lane, Marple. His father was a textile spinner, and Fred was a cotton weaver.

Fred enlisted on 4th December 1915 in the 3rd Battalion Cheshire Regiment in Hyde, Cheshire.

He married Annie Woolley while on leave without informing his parents on 25th June 1916 and the couple were living at 9 Chapel Street, Marple. A week later he was sent to France with the 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment. After only three days on the front, he received a severe leg wound when a shell hit a trench he was digging. He died of wounds on 28th July 1916 and is buried in Gézaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension.



Harold Cooke was a private in the 21st Brigade 2nd/23rd Battalion East Surrey Regiment.



He was born in Dukinfield the son of Walter and Nancy Cooke (Elliott).

In 1901 Harold was living with his parents at 5 Old Road, Dukinfield.

Harold enlisted in Chester and was assigned to the East Surrey Regiment.

On 1st September 1918 the 21st Brigade 2nd/23rd Battalion East Surrey Regiment advanced against enemy lines with the loss of two officers and thirteen other ranks wounded as part of the Hundred Days Offensive. The advance resumed on the 2nd September with Harold in the supporting units. Despite initial success seven men including Harold were killed during this attack. He is remembered on the Vis-En-Artois memorial.



John Brown was a private in the 33rd Company Machine Gun Corps (formerly South Lancashire Regiment).



He was the son of James William and Elizabeth Brown.

Before the war John attended the Marple Wesleyan Sunday School and was also associated with the Union Rooms Mission Church. He worked at Hollins Mill most of his working life, except for a time when he was a porter at Rose Hill Station. He answered the call to serve saying that he could not remain at home while his younger brother Sam was serving with the army. It is ironic that Sam would not only lose his brother John, but also his best friend and neighbour Edward Mycock. He himself would be invalided home before the end of the war.

Originally enlisted in Hyde in the South Lancashire Regiment (5173) before transferring to the 33rd Company Machine Gun Corps.

The 33rd Company of the Machine Gun Corps (MGC) was actively engaged on the Western Front in France during late April 1917, a period coinciding with fierce fighting along the Hindenburg Line and the Arras offensive. John was killed in action on 29th April 1917.

His father received the following letter from Lieutenant Alfred Holt "It is with deep regret that I write to inform you of the death of your son, Pte J Brown of my section. Your son was killed while doing his duty in action at 6pm on 29th April. Your son had many comrades in the section and will be missed very much".

Joseph Burrell was a Guardsman in the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards (3rd Guards Brigade).



He was born in Marple, Cheshire in 1899 the son of Joseph and Esther Burrell. His father was born in New Mills, Derbyshire and his mother was born in Marple.

In 1911 Joseph was living with his parents, brothers William, John and Ernest and sisters Maude and Elizabeth at Hollinside, Marple. His father was a cotton labourer.

Joseph went to France in August 1916 with the Grenadier Guards.

On 25th September 1916, the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, part of the 3rd Guards Brigade of the Guards Division, participated in the successful attack and capture of Lesboeufs during the Battle of the Somme in France. Joseph was killed in action on 25th September 1916 and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Marmaduke Cooper was a private in the 9th (Service) Battalion Cheshire.



Marmaduke was born on 8th December 1882 in Mottram Moor and was baptised at Hollingworth United Methodist Church on 7th January 1883. He was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Cooper.

On 9th June 1906 Marmaduke married Lizzie Moores at Bethel Methodist Church, Stalybridge.

In 1911 Marmaduke and his wife Lizzie were living with their daughters Doris and Olive Mary at 37 Prestbury Road, Macclesfield. He was an Assistant Superintendent, Life Assurance for the Prudential Insurance Company. Marmaduke and Lizzie went on to have two more children, Dorothy Margaret in 1913 and Clifford Moores in 1915.

Marmaduke enlisted at Chester in August 1915 first joining the Cheshire Yeomanry as Private 1812, then 5522. In December 1916 he became Private 50238, 9th Battalion Cheshire Regiment.

On 25th March 1918, the 9th (Service) Battalion, Cheshire Regiment was actively engaged in a heavy fighting retreat during the German Spring Offensive (Operation Michael) on the Somme front in France. On 25th March 1918 he was reported missing, later presumed killed in action during the opening days of the German Spring Offensive.

Samuel Thelwell was a private in the 5th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He was born in Marple, Cheshire in 1897 the son of Charles and Hannah Maria Thelwell. His father was born in Marple, and his mother was born in Miles Platting, Manchester.

In 1911 Samuel was living with his parents, brother Fred and sister Maud at 29 Hollins Lane, Marple. His father was a textile spinner, and Samuel was a textile warehouse boy.

Originally enlisted in the Cheshire Regiment (4662) before transferring to the 5th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

On 25th October 1917, the 5th (Service) Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) was actively engaged in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) in Belgium as part of the 42nd Brigade, 14th (Light) Division.

Initially Samuel's parents were informed that he was missing in action on 24th October 1917. He had left the trench to go to the enemy trenches but had not returned with his comrades. He had previously received a wound to his knee, suffered septic poisoning and been invalided back to England. He had returned to the front line perhaps earlier than he should have. He was declared killed in action on 25th October 1917.