

Military rank and career: Joseph joined the local TA in Cheshire at the age of 14. He joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Ottawa, Canada, as a private in August 1914. Clearly he must have emigrated. In early 1915 he then joined the British Army and was commissioned in the 3rd Battalion Yorks Regiment, ultimately reaching the rank of Major. He was awarded two medals for gallantry.



Joseph Barlow

His citations read as follows: MC, November 24th 1916 – For conspicuous gallantry in action. He led his men in the attack with great courage and determination, capturing the enemy position and a machine gun. He set a splendid example to his men. DSO, August 14th 1917 – For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During an attack he led his battalion with great skill and courage, restoring the direction which had been lost, and being the first to enter the objective. It was entirely due to him that a heavy hostile counter-attack was repulsed, and the following night he went through our own and the hostile barrage to re-establish communications. Although his men were badly shaken, he restored their confidence during a very critical situation, and his conduct was magnificent throughout.

Date, place and circumstances of death: In fact Joseph survived WW1 and might have returned a hero, but he was killed aged 25 in present day Iraq on 3 June 1920. He was a temporary Lieutenant Colonel at the time of his death, attached to the Indian Political Department. This was part of what was known as 'the Raj' and was the means by which the British controlled the princely states and tribal areas in India. This apparently also extended to the Middle East; Joseph was training locals to police their area when they were attacked and he and several others were killed.

Places of burial and commemoration: Buried in Baghdad North Gate Cemetery in Iraq, Plot XIX.G.2

Name: James W BARLOW (William)

Parents/family: William, Joseph's elder brother, married Dorothy Williams in 1910 and they had one son, Henry Gordon Barlow, born 12 Jan 1911 in West Derby. They lived in Edge Hill, Liverpool, in 1911 and William is recorded as a member of the Liverpool Police Force Band.



James Barlow

Military rank and career: Prior to WW1, William enlisted into the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders in Chester on 1 April 1900 aged 18. He fought in the Boer War and was awarded the South African Medal with Clasps in 1902 along with two good conduct badges. He was discharged in 1912 after a subsequent five years in the Reserves. At the outbreak of WW1 he was recalled as a Lance Corporal.

Date, place and circumstances of death: William tragically died on what was only day three of the war for the British at the Battle of Le Cateau, on 26 August 1914, aged 32. This was a one-day "stunning blow" battle, which kept the German army off the backs of the BEF in its retreat from Mons to the River Marne, east of Paris (and in which the BEF lost 8,500 men).

Places of burial and commemoration: He is remembered on the Le Cateau Memorial to the missing from the retreat at a place called La Ferte-sous-Jouarre. He is also officially remembered by the Merseyside Police.

Name: Ernest CORKILL

Parents/family: Ernest was born in Waterloo, Liverpool, in 1894, the only son of Henry Ernest and Mary (nee Westbrook). Aged 17 Ernest worked as a 'clerk apprentice'. His family lived at 'The Pines' at the junction of Dee View Road and Thurstaston Road in Heswall. His father was a bank manager and he was educated at Calday Grammar. Ernest was unmarried.



Ernest Corkhill

Military rank and career: He enlisted as a private in the 4th Battalion Cheshire Regiment on 9 November 1914 in Birkenhead and served in Gallipoli in 1915. In early 1916 he was recommended for officer training and was sent to the establishment in Queens College, Cambridge. His

character referees were a Methodist minister, then resident in Rhyl, and the head of Calday Grange Grammar school. Ernest was commissioned into the 4th Lancashire Fusiliers in June 1916.

Date, place and circumstances of death: As a Second Lieutenant he was popular with his men. He lost his life aged 23 during an attack on the Somme on 28 February 1917. His company commander thought that he was dying so he commanded Lt Corkill to get in contact with another regiment. This entailed covering unknown ground under enemy fire and it was during this manoeuvre that Ernest was killed.

Places of burial and commemoration: His record states "killed in action". He was buried in an isolated grave at Sailly-Saillies on the Somme near High Wood. His body was not discovered until 1935, most likely by locals doing farming or building work, and transferred to the cemetery at London cemetery, Longueval. He was identified from metal shoulder badges giving his regiment, a compass case with his name on it and a metal identification disc. His mother had died by then, but his father was alive and living at Prestatyn. As a further matter of interest his father is mentioned in the centenary history booklet of Heswall Methodist Church (1959) as on Friday 3 Dec 1925 he had opened the second day of a three-day bazaar to raise funds for the erection of the Primary room, recently demolished. In addition to listing on the church memorial plaque, Ernest is commemorated in the decorative wooden wall panelling around Communion Table and also listed on the Family memorial in St Peter's churchyard.

Name: Fred DAVIES

Parents/family: Fred was the only son of a family of six children born to William and Elizabeth living in Slack Road (now Milner Road). He was born in 1897. He was unmarried.



Tyne Cot Memorial

Military rank and career: Fred first joined the Denbighshire Yeomanry (Territorial Army). He then joined the 1st Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, becoming a Lance Corporal.

Date, place and circumstances of death: He died in France aged only 20 on 15 Nov 1917.

Places of burial and commemoration: He has no known grave. He is listed on the Tyne Cot memorial for the missing in the Ypres sector. (photo). He also appears on the St Peter's churchyard memorial and the St Peter's School Memorial Plaque.

Name: Thomas J EVANS

Parents/family: Thomas was born in 1900 to parents Elijah and Margaret (nee Burton) who lived first in Grange Mount and then at Bryn Coed in North Drive. His mother died when he was only 11. He was the youngest son of a family of four sons and three daughters.



St Peter's graveyard

Military rank and career: Thomas joined the King's Liverpool Regiment as a Private and later transferred to the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Date, place and circumstances of death: He would have been only 18 when he died on 11 February 1919, presumably when receiving treatment for wounds as the place of death is recorded as Ipswich. No further information is recorded.

Places of burial and commemoration: He is buried in St Peter's graveyard (photo) and also listed on Heswall Civic Memorial, St Peters Churchyard Memorial Plaque, and St Peter's School Memorial Plaque.

Name: Arthur FORSHAW (middle name Clifford)

Parents/family: Arthur Clifford Forshaw was born in 1897, the fourth eldest child of Thomas and Mary (nee Peers) Forshaw of Crossfield House, Milner Cop, Heswall (photo). He had seven brothers and three sisters. The Forshaw family had previously lived in Acre Lane, then known as Forshaw's Lane or Blacksmith's Lane because that was their occupation. There is still a house on the corner with Barnston Road bearing the name 'Old Forge'. Arthur was unmarried.



Crossfield House