

Military rank and career: Arthur enlisted in Heswall as a Private in The Cheshire Regiment 1st/4th battalion.

Date, place and circumstances of death: He was only 19 when he was killed in action in Egypt in December 1917.

Places of burial and commemoration: He is buried in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem cemetery is a "concentration" cemetery, in that graves were moved there from other places in the locality. It is suspected, therefore, that he was killed in the fighting in Palestine. The date would seem to fit with the third battle of Gaza. His inscription reads: *"In the midst of life, we are in death."*



Name: Edward H HODSON (Middle name Hutchinson)

Parents/family: Edward was the second of three brothers. He was born in Bacup, Lancs, in 1881 to Frank and Sarah (nee Hutchinson). Frank was a cotton spinner who died when Edward was only 10. Edward married Beatrice (nee Brandon) in 1906. They had one son, George, born in 1909. By then Edward was a corn miller and the family lived at 'Stivelooms' in Village Road (in background on photo above).

Military rank and career: Edward was recruited to the 15th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, becoming a Lieutenant.

Date, place and circumstances of death: He died in action on the Somme in France aged 37 on 24 March 1918. This will have been as part of the "Kaiser's battle", the last major German attack on the British and French lines in France which started on 21 March 1918.

Places of burial and commemoration: Edward has no known place of burial. As well as here, he is listed on the Pozieres Memorial and also the Heswall Civic Memorial and St Peter's Church Memorial Plaque.

Name: Chas E HUGHES

Parents/family: Charles was born on 6 Dec 1883 in Barnston and was baptised on 16 March 1884 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church. This would have been the forerunner to this building which was located on The Slack, now Milner Road. (photo of sketch). His parents were Frederick William, a milk dealer, and Lucy (nee Harrison), resident in Brimstage Lane, Barnston. Charles was the fourth of five children. The youngest son Robert died at birth. By 1911 both his mother and father had died which perhaps explains his move to Dorset. In 1910 he married Jessie Amelia Hughes and they lived at Poole, Dorset, where he was a milk carrier. They had one son, Walter.



Military rank and career: Charles enlisted into the 70th Battery of the 41st Brigade Royal Field Artillery and was a Sergeant at the time of his death. He would probably have been in the Battle of the Somme because Corbie where he is buried is right in the middle of the region. The Battle went on until 19 November 1916. It is likely that the circumstance in which Sgt Hughes was wounded could have been while manning a medium-sized gun in the battle for Pozières, which would have been in full flow at the time of his death. Artillery units engaged in what is politely termed "counter-battery fire", i.e. shelling the opposition artillery units to silence them. These were long-distance deadly duels.

Date, place and circumstances of death: 5 Aug 1916, aged 32.

Places of burial and commemoration: As already mentioned, Charles is buried at Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension, a CWGC cemetery that is added on to the town cemetery. He will have been wounded and passed away in the field hospital or casualty clearing station. If a soldier died in the casualty clearing station it indicates that he was severely wounded, otherwise he would have been evacuated to one of the "proper" hospitals in the rear. The headstone inscription reads: *"Loved by all who knew him. Dearly missed by his wife and son."*

Name: George HOSKINS

Parents/family: William George was born to parents William and Alice (nee Pitman) on 18 Sept 1888 in Chilcompton, Somerset. He was second eldest of 16, repeat 16 children: 11 sons and 5 daughters! The last-born brother Joseph died in infancy in 1908. William married Margaret (nee Ryan) in 1911 and they lived with one daughter, Dorothy, and one son, Robert, at 237 Telegraph Road, although Margaret moved after William's death to West Grove, Heswall.



Military rank and career: William served seven years as a Private in the 5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales' regiment) and was on the point of taking his discharge when the war broke out.

Date, place and circumstances of death: He was taken at once to the front and was acting as an orderly to the Colonel of his regiment when a German shell burst near to them and both were wounded. He was struck on the arm and leg and died next day on 14 May 1915 in hospital aged 27.

Places of burial and commemoration: William is buried at what is known as the Aeroplane Cemetery, Ypres. The inscription reads: *"Always Remembered by His Loving Wife Peggie and Two Children until the Day Dawns."* He is also listed on the Heswall Civic Memorial.

Name: Stanley KENNAUGH

Parents/family: Stanley was born on 3 Oct 1890 in Arbory, near Castletown, IOM, to Robert Kennaugh, a farmer and Elizabeth Kennaugh (nee Cubben). He was the fifth eldest of six sons and one daughter. His mother died in 1914. Stanley married Ethel Nellie Cannell in 1915 in Wirral. She also was from Castletown and worked at the time as a domestic servant in Hoylake. They appear to have had no children and were living in Heswall when Stanley enlisted in Neston.



Military rank and career: Stanley initially joined the Royal Army Service Corps. He was then a Private in the 20th and 32nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London). He was in France for less than a month before his death.

Date, place and circumstances of death: He died of wounds on 19 April 1917 aged 27. He was probably wounded in the Battle of Arras and died in a casualty clearing station at Warlincourt.

Places of burial and commemoration: Stanley is buried in Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Pas de Calais. His inscription reads: *"To Memory Ever Dear."* He is also listed on the Heswall British Legion Memorial Plaque.

Name: Sidney PETERS

Parents/family: Sidney was born on 28 June 1894 in Heswall to parents Samuel and Emma (Nee Peers) who lived in Brimstage Road. Sidney was the eldest of three children. He had two sisters. He was baptised in this chapel on 20th Sept 1894 only three years after it was built. He was unmarried.



Military rank and career: Sidney enlisted in Heswall and was a Lance Corporal in the 9th Battalion Cheshire Regiment

Date, place and circumstances of death: Sidney died on 7 June 1917 aged 23 of wounds received in the attack on the Messines Ridge in the Battle of Messines, Ypres.

Places of burial and commemoration: He is buried at Croonaert Chapel Cemetery, Ypres, (photo) and is also recorded on the family memorial in St Peter's churchyard as well as St Peter's Church Memorial Plaque and the Heswall Civic Memorial.

Our thanks to John Trevor and Roger for this research. Submitted by Roger Lane and Jenny McRonald (roger.m.lane@btinternet.com or 0151 342 9269) on behalf of the Heswall Society, which was established in 1953 "for the public benefit to conserve the heritage of the Ward of Heswall". For more details of membership and activities, please call Roger Lane or visit theheswallsociety.org.uk