

# Commonwealth War Graves St John the Baptist Church, Burscough





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## Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to collate information that is available from several sources, specifically relating to those who are buried in Commonwealth War Graves located in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Burscough. Information has also been included regarding the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who have arranged for these memorials to be erected, and whose work in maintaining them continues to this day.

The booklet focuses on Commonwealth War Graves and does not include the names of more than seventy other people who are recorded on family memorials within the churchyard. It does however include information about Edward Bridge MM and BEM who was wounded during World War 1. Edward served from his home in Burscough as a volunteer for Military Intelligence during World War 2, but died in 1942 from wounds that he had sustained during World War 1. Although he is buried in St John's churchyard, he is not buried in a Commonwealth War Grave as his death was outside the set number of years required by the Commission. It was felt however that his outstanding service in both World Wars deserved recognition here.

Also included in the booklet is information regarding 'The East Window' and the 'Roll of Honour' located inside the church, and their links to those who are buried and remembered on memorials in the churchyard. Finally, a poem called 'The Final Inspection' has been included, as a tribute to all those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

The booklet supports a 'History Trail' that has been designed to help those who visit the churchyard to locate the final resting places of those buried in Commonwealth War Graves. It also includes a partial plan of the churchyard, and more detailed plans showing where the actual Commonwealth War Graves can be found.

After its launch in May 2024, it is hoped that this booklet will be available to future visitors through inclusion in an information board located at the entrance to the churchyard, via the church website and through Lancashire Records and Library Services. It is also hoped that a child friendly version of the 'History Trail' will be developed in conjunction with students studying history and completing their teacher training at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk.

Alongside the information contained within this booklet, it is hoped that the students can present the 'History Trail' to local primary school pupils, and follow this up with an activity sheet that they have developed, before the children move on to secondary education. Raising awareness and knowledge of the fallen buried in their neighbourhood is probably the most important purpose of this booklet, since it helps to ensure that future generations can focus on and appreciate the sacrifices made by so many, who were often not much older than themselves. Hopefully, it will also mean that those buried in Commonwealth War Graves become more than names engraved on a stone, but the person that they were once more.

As each generation ages and eventually passes away, it is vitally important that future generations have an opportunity to connect with those who have gone before, and are able to hear their personal stories for themselves. Hopefully this booklet will be invaluable in helping them to do this.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct and up to date, it is acknowledged that further information may become available in the future. A digital PDF version is also available, and may contain revised information.

**Diane Edwards**

Project Co-ordinator, St John the Baptist Church

## History and work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's mission is to ensure those who died in service, or because of conflict, are commemorated so that they, and the human cost of war, are remembered for ever.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is a global leader in commemoration. Founded by Royal Charter in 1917, we work on behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom to commemorate the 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

We believe that remembering individuals who have died in conflicts is of universal, perpetual relevance, and that reflecting on their deaths is of continuing and paramount importance for us all. The cemeteries, memorials, graves, landscapes, and records in our care will be found at 23,000 locations and in more than 150 countries and territories. They are both the practical means of our commemoration of the fallen and vehicles for discovery, inspiration, and engagement.

We believe that each one of those we commemorate were people like us, with their own ambitions, hopes, and dreams. It is our duty and privilege to care for their graves and memorials and through our charitable Foundation, keep their stories alive. Every year remains are discovered, identified and reburied with honours, their names no longer on our many memorials to the missing but over their final resting place.

Our active public engagement and education programmes ensure the stories of the fallen are told to all generations through talks and tours at our sites and in schools, clubs, societies and organisations. Our War Graves Week every May throws a spotlight on the work we do and the men and women we commemorate. We constantly care and repair our sites. Some of them have reached or will soon be reaching their centenaries and are facing challenges that our founders could not have envisaged, requiring new materials and processes to ensure their longevity.

Our founders were determined that all the men and women of the British Empire who fell on the former battlefields of the First World War, on land and at sea, should be commemorated equally. The CWGC takes great pride in the principles that drove this work, which said that the organisation would not differentiate between the dead on the grounds of social or military rank, or by religion.

Our Non-Commemoration project works to identify any cases where names have been missed from our records, with extensive research already yielding important information helping ensure all Commonwealth war dead are commemorated as originally promised.

This information is taken from the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)  
<https://www.cwgc.org/who-we-are/>

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission war records databases record the details and commemoration location of every Commonwealth casualty from the First and Second World Wars  
<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/>

For Evermore: Stories of the Fallen – an online resource that collects and tells the stories of the war dead from both world wars commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
<https://www.cwgc.org/stories/>

### **Martin Ford**

Eyes On, Hands On (EOHO) Volunteer

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

<https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/projects/eyes-on-hands-on/>

## St John the Baptist Church Burscough

### The Memorial East Window

The East Window, which is one of the main features of the church, was installed in 1920 and dedicated to the memory of those local servicemen who died because of the First World War.

It was designed by Henry Gustave Hiller who was born in Manchester, studied at Manchester School of Art and Owens College, and from 1890 operated as a designer and manufacturer of stained glass at premises in Seel Street, Liverpool. He installed stained glass windows in many churches and civic buildings throughout North West England.

The Window is a visual representation of the Te Deum Laudamus, an ancient Latin hymn of praise to God which is sung regularly in the Roman Catholic church and at Morning Prayer in the Anglican church, as well as on special occasions as a service of thanksgiving.

The figure of the risen Jesus is central in the window and below him is the dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is

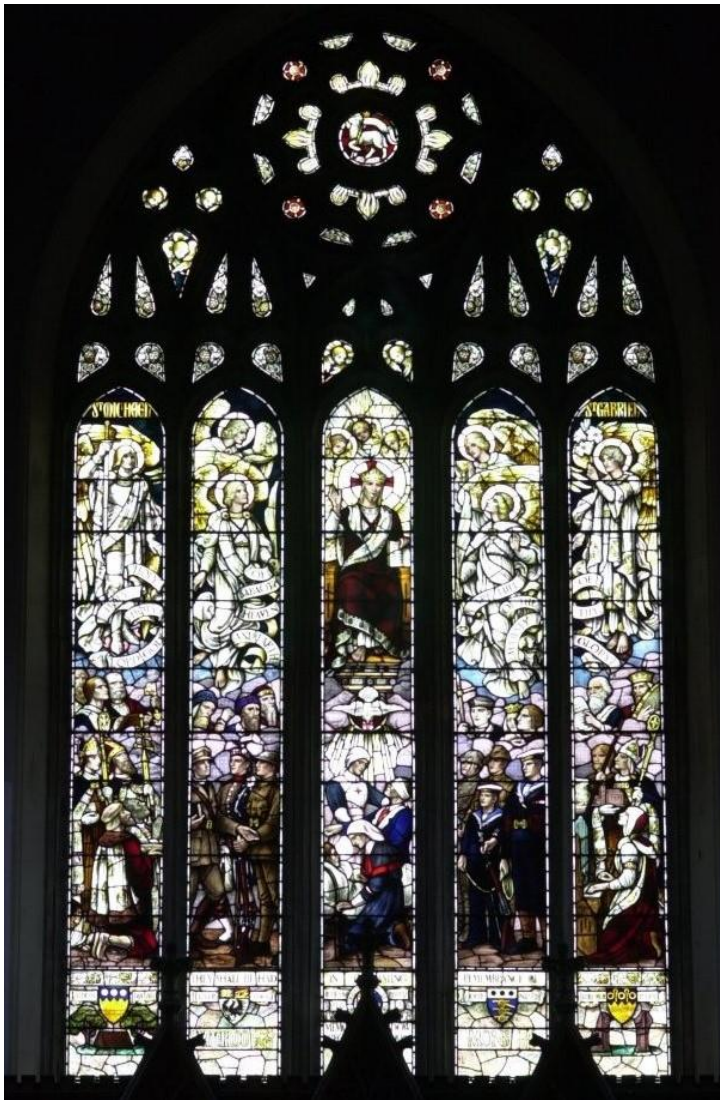
surrounded by angels, saints, prophets, martyrs and representatives of the worldwide church, all of which are mentioned in the Te Deum giving glory to God. National and local service personnel from the First World War are represented towards the bottom of the three central panels of the window.

The top tracery section of the window contains 47 individual glazed lights, central to which is a lamb holding a sceptre signifying the authority of Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God – Agnus Dei. John the Baptist acclaimed Jesus as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (*John 1 v29*). Surrounding the Lamb are tongues of fire signifying the Holy Spirit which came in this form on the Day of Pentecost (*Acts 2 v3*). The red rose of Lancashire appears four times at the edge of this central section and below are eight cherubim looking down on the seated figure of Jesus.

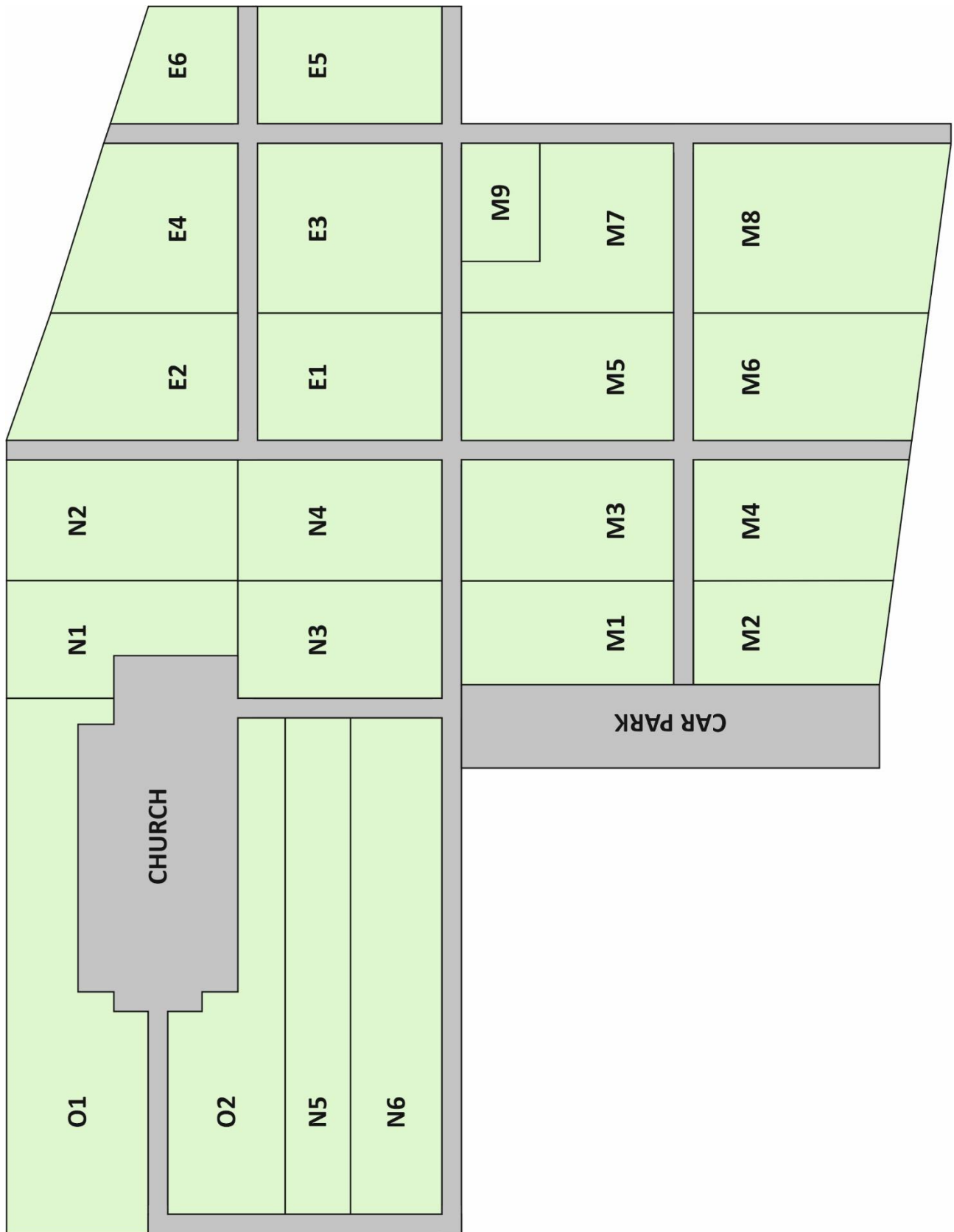
At the bottom of the window are the coats of arms of Lathom, Liverpool Diocese and Burscough Priory, together with the Seal to the Surrender Deed of Burscough Priory and the Shield of Ordnance. During the First World War, Burscough Ordnance Depot provided important storage for arms, uniforms and equipment.

An illustrated colour booklet giving a detailed description of the window and the significance of all individual figures and symbols within it is available from the church.

**David Orritt**  
Church Historian



# Full map of churchyard, St John the Baptist, Burscough



**SECTION N6** ▶

720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747
760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787
800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827
840 841a	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867
880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907
920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947
960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987
1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027
1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067
1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	Parr	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107
1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147

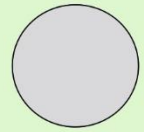
▶▶ Pathway leading to front doors of church

Pathway from car park to vestry side door

Pathway running parallel to School Lane

Pathway running parallel to School Lane

Entrance



Shops in courtyard

Houses on School Lane







Pathway from car park to vestry side door >>

SECTION N3 >

361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372
373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384
385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396
397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408
409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420
421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432
433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444
445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456
457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468
469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480
508	509	510	<b>Bridge</b>	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519
548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559
588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599
628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639
668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679
708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719
748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759
788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799
828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839
868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879
908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919
948	949	950	951	952	953	<b>Porter</b>	955	956	957	958	959
988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	X
1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	X
1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	X
1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	X
1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	TREE

Pathway leading to playing field >>>

SECTION N4 >

361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372
373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384
385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396
397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408
409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420
421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432
433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444
445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456
457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468
469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480
508	509	510	<b>Bridge</b>	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519
548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559
588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599
628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639
668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679
708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719
748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759
788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799
828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839
868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879
908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919
948	949	950	951	952	953	<b>Porter</b>	955	956	957	958	959
988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	X
1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	X
1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	X
1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	X
1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	TREE

Pathway leading to playing field >>>

Pathway between sections 'N' and 'E'



Pathway between sections 'N' and 'E'

Pathway between sub-sections of plot 'E'

Pathway between sub-sections of plot 'E'

SECTION E1 ▶										SECTION E3 ▶										SECTION E5 ▶				
TREE	2056	2093	2130	2166	2202	2237	2271	2305	2338	2371	2403	2434	2465	2495	2524	2553	2581	2608						
	2055	2092	2129	2165	2201	2236	2270	2304	2337	2370	2402	2433	2464	2494	2523	2552	2580	2607						
2016	2054	2091	2128	2164	2200	2235	2269	2303	2336	2369	2401	2432	2463	2493	2522	2551	2579	2606						
2015	2053	2090	2127	2163	2199	2234	2268	2302	2335	2368	2400	2431	2462	2492	2521	2550	2578	2605						
2014	2052	2089	2126	2162	2198	2233	2267	2301	2334	2367	2399	2430	2461	2491	2520	2549	2577	2604						
2013	2051	2088	2125	2161	2197	2232	2266	2300	2333	2366	2398	2429	2460	2490	2519	2548	2576	2603						
2012	2050	2087	2124	2160	2196	2231	2265	2299	2332	2365	2397	2428	2459	2489	2518	2547	2575	2602						
Païr	2049	2086	2123	2159	2195	2230	2264	2298	2331	2364	2396	2427	2458	2488	2517	2546	2574	2601						
2010	2048	2085	2122	2158	2194	2229	2263	2297	2330	2363	2395	2426	2457	2487	2516	2545	2573	2600						
TREE	2047	2084	2121	2157	2193	2228	2262	2296	2329	2362	2394	2425	2456	2486	2515	2544	2572	2599						
	2046	2083	2120	2156	2192	2227	2261	2295	2328	2361	2393	2424	2455	2485	2514	2543	P'waite	2598						
2007	2045	2082	2119	Grice	2191	2226	2260	2294	2327	2360	2392	2423	2454	2484	2513	2542	2570	2597						
2006	2044	2081	2118	2154	2190	2225	2259	2293	2326	2359	2391	2422	2453	2483	2512	2541	2569	2596						
2005	2043	2080	2117	2153	2189	2224	2258	2292	2325	2358	2390	2421	2452	2482	2511	2540	2568	2595						
2004	2042	2079	2116	2152	2188	2223	2257	2291	2324	2357	2389	2420	2451	2481	2510	2539	Neville	B'ledge						
2003	2041	2078	Weston	2151	Harverty	2222	2256	2290	2323	2356	2388	2419	2450	2480	2509	2538	Colbeck	Turner						
2002	2040	2077	Porter	2150	2186	2221	2255	2289	2322	2355	2387	2418	2449	2479	2508	2537	Sun'land	Williams						
TREE	Timewell	2076	2113	2149	2185	2220	2254	2288	2321	2354	2386	2417	2448											

Pathway leading to playing field >>>

Pathway leading to playing field >>>

Pathway leading to playing field >>>		Pathway leading to playing field >>>																				
<b>CAR PARK</b>		SECTION M1 ▶																		SECTION M3 ▶		
		1	36	75	115	155																
		2	37	76	116	156																
		3	38	77	117	157																
		4	39	78	118	158																
		5	40	79	119	159																
		6	41	80	120	160																
		7	42	81	121	161																
		8	43	82	122	162																
		9	44	83	123	163																
		10	45	84	124	164																
		11	46	Wright	125	165																
		12	47	86	126	166																
		13	48	87	127	167																
		14	49	88	128	168																
		15	50	89	129	169																
		16	51	90	130	170																
		17	52	91	131	171																
		18	53	92	132	172																
		19	54	93	133	173																
		20	55	94	134	174																
		SECTION M2 ▶																		SECTION M4 ▶		
		Pathway between sub-sections of plot 'M'																				

**Commonwealth War Commission Graves  
in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Burscough**

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## Gunner Frederick ALLEN

Royal Field Artillery, 7th Reserve Bty.

Service No: 30587

Death: 30th October 1916, aged 30yrs

Burial: 3rd November 1916

Grave No: N2/9

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 27, Entry 215

Based at Fulwood Barracks, Preston.

Husband of Dorothy, they were only married a few months prior to his death.

Died by falling from a train onto the Lancs & York Railway line.

### Medals

Due to the fact that he didn't serve in the 'Theatre of War' no medals were due to him, but his next of kin would have received a Death Plaque and Memorial Scroll with his name on. Example shown below.



Cap  
Badge





In Memory Of

Gunner

**F ALLEN**

Service Number: 30587

7th Reserve Bty., Royal Field Artillery who died on 30 October 1916

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

N. 9.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

# Gunner Thomas BLACKLEDGE

Royal Artillery, 629 Bty, 148 H.A.A. Regt.

Service No: 13009799

Death: 29th December 1944, aged 39yrs

Burial: 3rd January 1945

Grave No: E5/2594

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 256, Entry 2046

Address: 94 Liverpool Rd Sth, Burscough.

Husband of Bridget Lily Blackledge  
of 94 Liverpool Rd Sth, Burscough.

Son of Henry & Elizabeth Blackledge of Burscough.

Cause of death unknown.

## Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of

Gunner

# THOMAS BLACKLEDGE

Service Number: 13009799

629 Bty., 148 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Artillery who died on 29 December 1944 Age 39

Son of Henry and Elizabeth Blackledge, of Burscough; husband of Bridget Lily Blackledge, of Burscough.

IN PROUD AND EVERLASTING MEMORY. A BELOVED HUSBAND AND FATHER. AT REST

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2594.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

# Lance Corpl James CHEETHAM

Royal Army Service Corps

Service No: T/14705901

Death: 12th February 1945, aged 35yrs

Burial: 16th February 1945

Grave No: E6/2506

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 258, Entry 2057

Address: 12 New Lane, Burscough.

Husband of Ada Cheetham of 12 New Lane, Burscough.

Son of Mrs H Cheetham and stepson of  
Mr T Fazackerley of Burscough.

Died at Fusehill Emergency Hospital, Carlisle.  
Cause of death unknown.

## Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of  
Lance Corporal

# **JAMES CHEETHAM**

Service Number: T/14705901

Royal Army Service Corps who died on 12 February 1945 Age 35

Son of Mrs. H. Cheetham, and stepson of Mr. T. Fazackerley, of Burscough; husband of Ada Cheetham, of Burscough.

IN LOVING MEMORY. HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR KING AND COUNTRY. AT REST IN PERFECT PEACE

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2506.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**



## Sub-Lieutenant Ralph Austin COLBECK

Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve

Ship: H.M.S. Attacker

Service No: NZD2817

Death: 11th November 1943, aged 21yrs

Burial: 14th November 1943

Grave No: E5/2566

Burial Register: 1913-1950, page 248, Entry 1977

Son of Wilfred Howard Buckley Colbeck and Mary Winifred Colbeck (nee Clarke) of Puru, Auckland, New Zealand.

On the 11th November 1943, Supermarine Seafires LR693 of 886 Naval Air Squadron, and NM929 of 808 Naval Air Squadron, (whilst both squadrons were stationed at HMS Ringtail, RNAS Burscough), were completing a "Wing Air Exercise" when they collided and crashed north of Carnforth, killing both pilots.

LR693 was flown by Sub Lieutenant (A) R.A. Colbeck  
NM929 was flown by Sub Lieutenant (A) E.A. Philpot

Sub Lieutenant Philpot is buried in Arnold Cemetery, Nottinghamshire, Class A Cons. Grave 121.

### Medals

New Zealand War Service Medal

New Zealand Memorial Cross received by next of kin

British War Medal 1939-1945



Cap  
Badge





In Memory Of  
Sub-Lieutenant (A)

## **RALPH AUSTIN COLBECK**

H.M.S. Attacker, Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 11 November 1943  
Age 21

Son of Wilfred Howard Buckley Colbeck and of Mary Winifred Colbeck (nee Clarke), of Puru, Auckland, New Zealand.

Remembered with Honour

**BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK**

Sec. E. Grave 2566.

|||||  
COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES  
|||||

**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

## Private Joseph GRICE

Royal Army Service Corps  
48th Sqdn. Remount Depot  
Service No: R/39303

Death: 15th February 1919, aged 39yrs

Burial: 19th February 1919

Grave No: E1/2155

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 54, Entry 430

Also in the same grave are William Edward Grice, aged 7mths, buried on the same day as Joseph, and his wife Sarah Ann, buried 9th December 1922, aged 41yrs.

Address given for both as Platts Lane, Burscough.

Cause of death unknown.

### Medals

Due to the fact that he didn't serve in the 'Theatre of War' no medals were due to him, but his next of kin would have received a Death Plaque and Memorial Scroll with his name on. Example shown below.



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of

Private

**J GRICE**

Service Number: R/39303

48th Sqdn. Remount Depot, Royal Army Service Corps who died on 15 February 1919

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

E. 2155.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

# Sergeant Joseph HAVERTY

Dorsetshire Regiment 6th Bn. (now 6th Dorset Regt.)

Service No: 13976

Death: 14th June 1920, aged 38yrs

Grave No: E1/2187

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 67, Entry 535

Address: 62 Orrell Lane, Burscough. His wife Marion is also in the grave, who died 29th November 1953, aged 72yrs. His parents were Mr Patrick and Mrs Margaret Haverty of Brookside House, Burtonwood, Lancs.

Note: On the headstone it states "Sergeant Major" but on one record the title "Major" is crossed out. His Medal Card only states "Sergeant" on it - reason unknown.

Cause of death unknown.

## Medals

Joseph entered France on 23rd December 1915, and so he was entitled to receive a 1914-1915 Star, Death Plaque and Memorial Scroll. The Star, War Medal and Victory Medal with his name on were given to his next of kin.

These medals, when awarded together, became known as "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred" after three popular comic strip characters at the time - a dog, a penguin and a rabbit.



Cap  
Badge





In Memory Of

Serjeant

# JOSEPH HAVERTY

Service Number: 13976

6th Bn., Dorsetshire Regiment who died on 14 June 1920 Age 38

Son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Havery, of Brookside House, Burtonwood, Lancs; husband of Marion Havery, of 62, Orrell Lane,  
Burscough Bridge.

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

E. 2187.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

## Sergeant Edward LYON

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Military Base: Dyce, Aberdeen

Unit: 8 Operational Training Unit

Service No: 1433734

Death: 11th November 1943, aged 20yrs

Burial: 15th November 1943

Grave No: E2/2170

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 248, Entry 1978

Son of the late John William & Elizabeth Lyon of Lathom

Also in the same grave are:

John William Lyon, burial 1st February 1919, aged 30yrs

Mary Lyon, burial 16th August 1941, aged 30yrs

Robert Henry Lyon, burial 26th November 1940, aged 17yrs

Notes: Crashed at Ingleby Barwick, N. Yorkshire. Edward was the Navigator, Pilot Flight Lieutenant J/7617 Alan J Farquhar-Symes RCAF (age 22) also died in this crash. He was from Rockcliffe, Ontario, Canada, the husband of Margaret Symes (nee Soame), and son of Alan & Jean Farquhar Symes. Ingleby Barwick is a town / civil parish in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees, North Yorkshire. It was the last aircraft accident (there had been four previously in the area), whilst doing photo reconnaissance in a de Havilland Mosquito MkV1 (DZ 459). The plane was attempting to land at RAF Thornaby airfield with one engine, when it crashed into a field at High Leven, near to what is now Ingleby Barwick at 11:00 hrs, killing both crew members. In 2004, planning permission was granted for a school to be built nearby, and a school playing field created over the crash site the following year. There is now a stone marking the crash site.

### Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge





In Memory Of

Sergeant

# EDWARD LYON

Service Number: 1433734

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 11 November 1943 Age 20

Son of Elizabeth Lyon, of Lathom.

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Joint grave 2170.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

## Squad Leader Robert Henry LYON

Home Guard

71st County of Lancaster (Ormskirk) Bn.

Service No: Not Known

Death: 21st November 1940, aged 17yrs

Burial: 26th November 1940

Grave No: E2/2170

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 224, Entry 1791

Son of the late John William & Elizabeth Lyon, both of 3 Top Locks, Lathom, Nr Ormskirk.

Also in the same grave are:

John William Lyon, burial 1st February 1919, aged 30yrs

Mary Lyon, burial 16th August 1941, aged 30yrs

Edward, burial 18th November 1943, aged 20yrs

The 71st County of Lancaster (Ormskirk) Battalion Home Guard was affiliated to the Kings Liverpool Regiment, whose cap badge they wore.

Notes: Drowned in the Leeds/Liverpool canal when cycling to Home Guard drill on a foggy November evening. It is likely he would have enlisted in the Forces upon attaining 18yrs of age.

### Medals

No medal entitlement.



Cap  
Badge



### Medals

No medal entitlement.

In Memory Of  
Squad Leader

## **ROBERT LYON**

71st County of Lancaster (Ormskirk) Bn., Home Guard who died on 21 November 1940 Age 17

Son of Elizabeth Lyon, of Lathom.

Remembered with Honour

**BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK**

Sec. E. Joint grave 2170.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

## Sub-Lieutenant (A) Alan Edgar NEVILLE

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Rank: Telegraphist/Sub-Lieutenant (Fleet Air Arm)

Unit: 1820 Squadron, H.M.S. Ringtail

Service No: Not Known

Death: 6th October 1944, aged 21yrs

Burial: 10th October 1944

Grave No: E5/2567

Burial Register: 1913-1950, page 255, Entry 2033

Address: Royal Naval Air Station, Burscough.

Son of Edgar and Mabel Neville of Romford, Essex.

Notes: Plane dived into the sea close to the target while practising dive bombing at the Inskip Bombing Range, nr Fleetwood, Lancs.

Steward Frank Thomas Turner was also a casualty in this accident.

### Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of  
Sub-Lieutenant (A)

## **ALAN EDGAR NEVILLE**

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 06 October 1944 Age 21

Son of Edgar and Mabel Neville, of Romford, Essex

HE THAT OVERCOMETH SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2567.



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



## Trooper Harry PARR

Reconnaissance Corps, 59th Regt.

Service No: 10602406

Death: 28th July 1943 in Folkstone, Kent, aged 20yrs

Burial: 2nd August 1943

Grave No: E1/2011

Burial Register: 1913-1950, page 245, Entry 1960

Son of John & Ellen Parr of 43 Victoria Street, Burscough.

Also in the same grave are:

John Parr, died 26th April 1960, aged 79yrs

Ellen Parr, died 30th January 1972, aged 78yrs

Joan Parr, burial 7th April 2013, aged 80yrs

Harry volunteered for the Home Guard upon its formation aged 17 in 1940 (71st Bn Kings Liverpool Regt) based at Ormskirk and served with Burscough village platoon. On 15th June 1942, he reported to Carlisle to enlist in the newly formed Reconnaissance Corps, becoming a very early volunteer of that unit (confirmed by his service number, given to all volunteers, which was "1060").

He was posted to 59th Recce in Northern Ireland, and in late 1942 moved to Kent for coastal patrol duties to prepare for a potential "second front". It was during such a training exercise that he was accidentally killed when a Humber heavy armoured car in which he was turret gunner overturned and he was crushed to death.

He was buried in full military honours, with coffin draped in the Union Flag, the bearers drawn from 8 Coy RAOC in Burscough, a firing party from his own regiment 59th Recce, and a detachment of the 71st Bn Home Guard (Burscough), with a large contingent from his unit alongside many friends and relatives from the area.

### Medals

1939-1945 War Medal



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of

Trooper

# HARRY PARR

Service Number: 10602406

59th Regt., Reconnaissance Corps who died on 28 July 1943 Age 20

Son of John and Ellen Parr, of Burscough.

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2011.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

# Private Hector PARR

Essex Regiment, 7th Bn.

Service No: 37187

Death: 8th March 1920, aged 26yrs

Burial: 12th March 1920

Grave No: N6/1099 & 1139 (family double grave)

Burial Register: 1913 - 1950, Page 64, Entry 512



Son of Hector & Margaret Parr (nee Tasker) of 18 Canal Bank, New Lane, Burscough, Lancs.

Also in the same graves are:

James Parr, buried 12th March 1917, aged 20yrs

Margaret Parr, buried 26th August 1939, aged 75yrs

Hector Parr, buried 29th November 1941, aged 75yrs

and three children, with burials from 1890 to 1904

Cap  
Badge



Cause of death Malaria.

## Medals

1914-1920 War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

Hector did not enter the 'Theatre of War' until 1917, so he was not entitled to receive the 1914-1915 Star. His next of kin would have received a Death Plaque and Memorial Scroll with his name on. Example shown below.





In Memory Of

Private

# HECTOR PARR

Service Number: 37187

7th Bn., Essex Regiment who died on 08 March 1920

Son of Hector and Margaret Parr, of 18, New Lane, Burscough Bridge.

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

N. 1099.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

## Sergeant Charles PORTER

Army Ordnance Corps, 66th Coy.

Service No: 04598

Death: 23rd December 1915, aged 52yrs

Burial: 27th December 1915

Grave No: E1/2114\*

Burial Register: 1913-1950,  
27th Dec 1915, Page 21, Entry 166

Address: Army Ordnance Depot, Burscough.

Husband of Mrs E Porter, 6 Candler St, South Tottenham, London.

\* Note in Register - grave given to Mrs Charles Porter.

Cause of death unknown.

## Medals

Due to the fact that he didn't serve in the 'Theatre of War' no medals were due to him, but his next of kin would have received a Death Plaque and Memorial Scroll with his name on. Example shown below.



Cap  
Badge





In Memory Of

Serjeant

**C PORTER**

Service Number: 04598

66th Coy., Army Ordnance Corps who died on 23 December 1915 Age 52

Husband of E. Porter, of 6, Candler St., South Tottenham, London.

Remembered with Honour

**BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK**

E. 2114.



**COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES**



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH**

**WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

## Private Thomas PORTER

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (R.E.M.E.)

Service No: 19004214

Death: 5th November 1946, aged 18yrs

Burial: 9th November 1946

Grave No: N4/954

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 946, Entry 2150

Adopted son and nephew of William and Elizabeth Laird  
of 25 Victoria Street, Burscough Bridge.

Thomas is buried in the family grave with the CWGC headstone.

Also in the same grave are:

Margaret Porter, buried 4th January 1901, aged 35yrs

Thomas Porter, buried 21st September 1933, aged 72yrs

Cause of death unknown.

### Medals

No medal entitlement.



Cap  
Badge



### Medals

No medal entitlement.

In Memory Of

Private

**T PORTER**

Service Number: 19004214

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who died on 05 November 1946 Age 18

Adopted son and nephew of William and Elizabeth Laird, of Burscough Bridge.

IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 954.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

**NOTE:** Some of the details above were incorrectly recorded at the date of this certificate being produced. A replacement certificate was not available at the time of publication. The correct grave number is N4/954.

# Corporal David POSTLETHWAITE

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Service No: 1022686

Attached to No. 3 Technical Training Command

Death: 7th November 1944, aged 36yrs

Burial: 11th November 1944

Grave No: E5/2571

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 255, Entry 2036

Son of Thomas and Alice Postlethwaite of Burscough. Address: 20 Shaftsbury Ave, Birkdale, Southport. His wife Jane is also in this grave, she died 9th March 2003 aged 95yrs.

Corporal Postlethwaite was a senior armourer, based at RAF Ipswich but attached to RAF Regiment No 3 Anti-Aircraft Battery (Practice Camp) near Felixstowe Suffolk. He was billeted off-station at the nearby Coastguard Cottages, Langer Rd, Felixstowe with two other men.

On 7th November 1944, a USAAF B17 Flying Fortress (42-9756) named Batchelor's Heaven of the 100th Bomb Group (8th Air Force), was leading a practice flight of B17's out of USAAF Thorpe Abbotts, Suffolk. This exercise involved a flare being fired from the lead ship to aid other crews to fix on the leader. Unfortunately, the flare went off inside the aircraft, starting a fire which the crew were unable to contain. Six of the crew bailed out, some badly burned. Three including both pilots went down with the aircraft, crashing into the Coastguard Cottages, killing all three US airmen and three RAF men on the ground, one of whom was Corporal Postlethwaite, and badly injuring a fourth man. Corporal Postlethwaite's body was recovered and returned to the village of his birth.

## Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of

Corporal

# DAVID POSTLETHWAITE

Service Number: 1022686

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve who died on 07 November 1944 Age 36

Son of Thomas and Alice Postlethwaite, of Burscough Bridge; husband of Jane Postlethwaite, of Birkdale, Southport.

DEARLY LOVED HUSBAND OF JANE POSTLETHWAITE. "THY WILL BE DONE"

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2571.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



## Private Jack RUSSELL

Royal Welch Fusiliers, 3rd Bn.

Service No: 98207

Death: 16th February 1919, aged 20yrs

Burial: 20th February 1919

Grave No: E2/2184

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 54, Entry 431

Also in this grave is Richard Russell, burial 25th Sept 1952, aged 50yrs.

Son of Frederick and the late Margaret Russell of Liverpool Rd, Burscough, Lancs.

Death due to war related sickness, Influenza, Pneumonia, Cardiac Failure. Seaforth Military Hospital, Beech Rd, Litherland.

Service: British Army Private No: 6231, East Yorkshire Regiment 2/4 Battalion from 31st May 1916 to 21st September 1916. On 21st September 1916 he was hospitalised due to having fits.

Service: British Army Private No: 98207, Royal Welch Fusiliers, 3rd Garrison Battalion, from 16th August 1918 to 16th February 1919.

### Medals

Due to the fact that he didn't serve in the 'Theatre of War' no medals were due to him but his next of kin would have received a Death Plaque and Memorial Scroll with his name on. Example shown below.



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of

Private

**J RUSSELL**

Service Number: 98207

3rd Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers who died on 16 February 1919

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

C. 214.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

**NOTE:** Some of the details above were incorrectly recorded at the date of this certificate being produced. A replacement certificate was not available at the time of publication. The correct grave number is E2/2184.

## Sub-Lieutenant (A) Peter Graham SUNDERLAND

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Rank: Telegraphist/Sub Lieutenant (Fleet Air Arm)

Unit: 1771 Squadron, H.M.S. Heron

Service No: Not Known

Death: 28th May 1944, aged 22yrs

Burial: 1st June 1944

Grave No: E5/2565

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 252, Entry 2013

Son of Frank and Dora Grace Sunderland of Harrogate, Yorks.

Death due to air crash - FAA 1771 Squadron, Heron. Aircraft spun into the ground at Holmeswood, Nr Rufford, Lancs, when control was lost in a tight turn during a camera gun attack exercise.

Sub Lieutenant (A) Maurice Walton Williams was also killed in this crash.

### Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of  
Sub-Lieutenant (A)

# **PETER GRAHAM SUNDERLAND**

H.M.S. Heron., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 28 May 1944 Age 22

Son of Frank and Dora Grace Sunderland, of Harrogate, Yorkshire.

Remembered with Honour

**BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK**

Sec. E. Grave 2565.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**



## Sergeant Pilot Robert Short TIMEWELL

Royal Air Force VR (Volunteer Reserve)

Service No: 656496

Death: 4th October 1942, aged 24yrs

Burial: 9th October 1942

Grave No: E1/2039

Burial Register: 1913-1950, page 238, Entry 1902

Son of Robert & Ethel Mary Timewell, who are also buried in the same grave, of The Royal Coaching House (now The Hop Vine) in Lathom (now classed as Burscough).

Robert had joined the Territorial Army before the war and served in France initially, being evacuated at Dunkirk. He then volunteered for duty with the Commandos, but transferred to the RAF in 1941. He informed his parents that on Sunday 4th October he would be flying over Burscough, and to let everybody know. He took off from RAF Acklington at 3:25pm in a Hurricane Mk11c (BN.205). Many residents came out to watch as he gave an impressive low-level aerobatic display for several minutes.

Witnesses recalled that the aircraft was very low while trying to perform a manoeuvre. What followed was shocking - the plane lost height rapidly and ploughed straight into a field behind the local football ground, exploding as it came to rest. The resulting fire then caused bullets to start exploding, and people ran for cover. No actual details of the incident were published due to wartime censorship. The site was quickly cleared, leaving very few clues as to the manner of this airman's death.

### Medals

1939-45 Star

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of

Sergeant

# ROBERT SHORT TIMEWELL

Service Number: 656496

Royal Air Force who died on 04 October 1942

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2039.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

# Steward Frank Thomas TURNER

Royal Navy

H.M.S. Ringtail

Service No: C/LX 613540

Death: 6th October 1944, aged 20yrs

Burial: 10th October 1944

Grave No: E5/2593

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 255, Entry 2034

Son of James and Rose Ellen Turner of South Norwood, Surrey.

Notes: Plane dived into the sea close to the target while practising dive bombing at the Inskip Bombing Range, nr Fleetwood, Lancs.

Sub-Lieutenant (A) Alan Edgar Neville was also a casualty in this accident.

The full length of the cap tally (pictured above right) would have been wound around a white hat, with the name of the ship at the front of the cap.

## Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



## Cap Tally



In Memory Of

Steward

# FRANK THOMAS TURNER

Service Number: C/LX 613540

H.M.S. Ringtail, Royal Navy who died on 06 October 1944 Age 20

Son of James and Rose Ellen Turner, of South Norwood, Surrey.

WENT THE DAY WELL? WE DIED AND NEVER KNEW. BUT, WELL OR ILL, FREEDOM, WE DIED FOR YOU

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2593.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION



## Driver Arthur VICKERS

Royal Army Service Corps, 64 Gen. Transport Coy.

Service No: T/10662504

Death: 8th September 1942, aged 20yrs

Burial: 12th September 1942

Grave No: E6/2525

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 1945, Entry 1896

Son of John and Mary Wareing Vickers  
of 1 Victoria Street, Burscough.

Cause of death unknown.

### Medals

1939-1945 War Medal

Defence Medal



Cap  
Badge





In Memory Of

Driver

# ARTHUR VICKERS

Service Number: T/10662504

64 Gen. Transport Coy., Royal Army Service Corps who died on 08 September 1942 Age 20

Son of John and Mary W. Vickers, of Burscough.

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Remembered with Honour

BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK

Sec. E. Grave 2525.



COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES



COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

## B S Major William Edward WESTON

Royal Field Artillery

33rd Reserve Bty, No. 6 "C" Reserve Bde.

Service No: 25712

Death: 29th February 1916, aged 52 yrs\*

Burial: 4th March 1916

Grave: E1/2115

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 23, Entry 179

\*age stated as 51yrs in Burial Register

Husband of Edith Maud Weston of 62 Chapel St, Ormskirk (CWGC Memorial address). Edith's address at time of death is recorded as Liverpool Road, Burscough.

Also in the same grave are:

Edith Maud Weston, buried 9th May 1933, aged 61

Amelia Elizabeth Leech, buried 24th June 1971, aged 77

Son of Samuel & Elizabeth Mary Weston of Salters Bridge, Tarvin, Chester.

William spent 22yrs in the Army, joining the Royal Horse Artillery when he was 18yrs old. The greater part of his service took place in India, where he fought in two engagements.

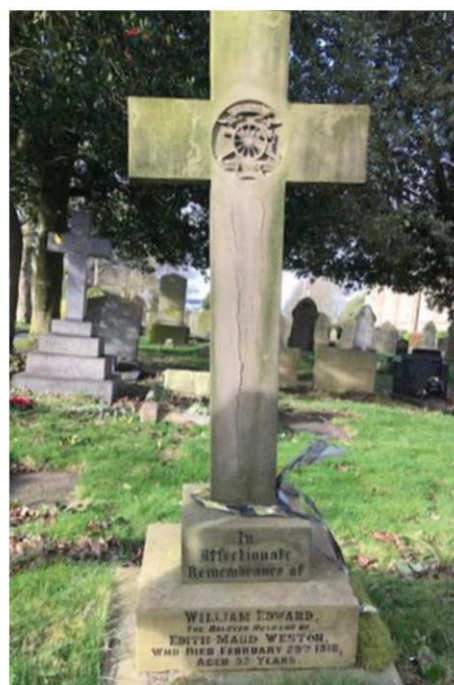
On settling down to civilian life in Burscough he was employed at the Army Ordnance Stores, Burscough, but when war broke out he rejoined the Royal Field Artillery. He spent several months training troops at Salisbury Plain, before being posted to Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow where he died suddenly after a heart attack.

### Medals

His next of kin would have received a Death Plaque and Memorial Scroll with his name on. Example shown below.



Cap  
Badge



In Memory Of  
Battery Serjeant Major

## **WILLIAM EDWARD WESTON**

Service Number: 25712

33rd Reserve Bty. No. 6 "C" Reserve Bde., Royal Field Artillery who died on 29 February 1916 Age  
52

Son of Samuel and Elizabeth Mary Weston, of Salter's Bridge, Tarvin, Chester; husband of Edith Maud Weston, of 62, Chapel  
St., Ormskirk, Lancs. Served on the Punjab Frontier (1897-98).

Remembered with Honour

**BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK**

E. 2115.



**COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES**



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**

# Sub Lieutenant (A) Maurice Walton WILLIAMS

Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve

H.M.S. Heron

Service No: Not Known

Death: 28th May 1944, aged 22yrs

Burial: 1st June 1944

Grave No: E5/2592

Burial Register: 1913-1950, Page 252, Entry 2014

Son of Daniel Walton Williams and Lilian Jane Cogle Williams of 49 Marine Parade, Napier, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

Death due to air crash - FAA 1771 Squadron, Heron. Aircraft spun into the ground at Holmeswood, Nr Rufford, Lancs, when control was lost in a tight turn during a camera gun attack exercise.

Sub-Lieutenant (A) Peter Graham Sunderland was also killed in this crash.

## Medals

New Zealand War Service Medal

New Zealand Memorial Cross received by next of kin

British War Medal 1939-1945



Cap  
Badge





In Memory Of  
Sub-Lieutenant (A)

## **MAURICE WALTON WILLIAMS**

H.M.S. Heron, Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve who died on 28 May 1944 Age 22

Son of Daniel Walton Williams and Lilian Jane Cogle Williams, of Napier, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand.

Remembered with Honour

**BURSCOUGH BRIDGE (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST) CHURCHYARD, ORMSKIRK**

Sec. E. Grave 2592.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**



## Staff Sergeant Dennis G WRIGHT

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (R.E.M.E.)

Service No: 2547032

Death: 11th October 1949, aged 22yrs

Burial: 14th October 1949

Grave No: M1/85

Burial Register: 1913-1950, page 292, Entry 3131

Address: 123 Wolferton Road, Anlaby, Hull.

Based at 21 Command Workshops, R.E.M.E. Burscough.

Son of Walter A Wright (1898-1991)  
and Ethel Beatrice Wright (1896-1957)  
both of 123 Wolferton Road, Anlaby, Hull.

Cause of death unknown.

A certificate from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is not available in this instance, because the date of death was after 1947, by which time certificates were no longer being issued.

### Medals

There is no way of knowing / checking.



Cap  
Badge



### Medals

There is no way of knowing / checking.

## The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God,  
Which must always come to pass.  
He hoped his shoes were shining,  
Just as brightly as his brass.

Step forward now, you soldier,  
How shall I deal with you?  
Have you always turned the other cheek?  
To My church have you been true?

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,  
No, Lord, I guess I ain't  
Because those of us who carry guns,  
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,  
And at times my talk was tough.  
And sometimes I've been violent,  
Because the world is awfully rough.

But I never took a penny,  
That wasn't mine to keep,  
Though I've worked a lot of overtime,  
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,  
Though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me,  
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,  
Among the people here.  
They never wanted me around,  
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,  
It needn't be so grand,  
I never expected or had too much,  
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,  
Where the saints had often trod,  
As the soldier waited quietly,  
For the judgment of his God.

Step forward now, you soldier,  
You've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,  
You've done your time in Hell.

(author unknown)



## Edward Bridge MM BEM



### WW1 Somme 1916 WW2 Code Breaker

Edward Bridge, the son of John and Jane Bridge, was born in Burscough in September 1893 and lived at a house on Turnpike Road, which later became 11, Moss Lane. He was a clerk/typist for James Martland Ltd. Agricultural Merchants.

He was awarded the Military Medal (MM) during World War 1 and the British Empire Medal (BEM) during World War 2.

#### World War 1:

In September 1914, shortly after the start of the war, Edward volunteered for the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's (Liverpool) Regiment. His battalion entered France on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1915 and on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916 he was fighting in the thick of the Somme battlefields. He was part of an assault on German lines which took Rainbow Trench, close to the village of Gueudecourt. The advance continued, but a party of King's (Liverpool) and a party of King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry were left behind during this operation to deal with any remaining Germans. Edward was NCO in charge of the King's (Liverpool) men and he located a machine gun that was still firing, which they attacked and captured. He was awarded the Military Medal for his gallantry during this operation.

#### World War 2:

Severe injuries suffered during World War 1 left him bedridden and he developed an interest in radios, learning Morse Code. This led to his recruitment by British Military Intelligence (MI5) as an Interceptor for the Radio Security Service (RSS), which was transferred to MI6 in 1941. Initially, RSS hunted German spies in the UK, but then monitored Abwehr (German Military Intelligence) signals. Bletchley Park was the centre for encryption. Edward's BEM award in 1942 and letters sent to him, including one from Winston Churchill, relate to two very important intercepts. Lord Sandhurst wrote 'He has done something really big for his country.' In the first, he had discovered and intercepted a new group of German agents in the USA communicating with Germany; secrecy still shrouds his second intercept.

He died of injuries on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1942, aged 49. He is buried in St John the Baptist churchyard – his grave can be found in Section N/3 No: N511, highlighted on the map in [Blue](#)

The medals that he was entitled to are:

### Military Medal



### British Empire Medal



### 1914-1915 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal



These medals, when awarded together, became known as “Pip, Squeak and Wilfred” after three popular comic strip characters at the time - a dog, a penguin and a rabbit.

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**Michael Dawson** (Owner of website [images-of-burscough.co.uk](http://images-of-burscough.co.uk))

**Trevor Bridge** (Nephew of Edward Bridge)

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is correct and up to date, it is acknowledged that further information may become available in the future. A digital PDF version is also available, and may contain revised information.







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