



Albert Armer



Samuel Balderson



Robert Barton



Herbert Beattie



Ernest Beck



David Clark



George Fleming



James Kirkby



Edgar Hall

The Men on the Monument: The Carnforth Poppy Trail



Carnforth War Memorial, unveiled 9 November 1924

On the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, this leaflet commemorates those men who never came back. It also remembers those that they left behind. Not all families received a telegram from the King during the war telling them of the death of a loved one as in some cases wounded men died well after the end of hostilities but the effect was no less tragic on grieving households.

Lack of space prevents the telling of the full stories of all of these men but, as examples of where and how the men of Carnforth fought and died, three stories are told in more detail.

James Morrison Forsyth Clarke: From Carnforth to Gallipoli

According to the 1911 census James lived with his family in Carnforth and worked as a labourer. He next appears on the passenger list of the SS Makarini which set sail from London 10 January 1913, bound for Melbourne. As this is the only J Clarke on any surviving passenger list to have left England for Australia between 1911 and 1915, it is reasonable to assume that this is him.

On 15 December 1914 James enlisted with the Australian Imperial Force. He is described as 5ft 6.5in, 137lbs with yellow brown eyes and light brown hair. He was also missing the tip of his 2nd finger on his right hand. On 19 February 1915 he sailed from Melbourne on H.M.A.T Runic. On 7 May 1915 he landed at Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli peninsula, as one of the reinforcements to the by now severely depleted 1st Infantry.

At 5.30pm on 6 August 1915 the Australian infantry attacked the Ottoman trenches in the opening phase of the Battle of Lone Pine (so named after a single pine tree growing on the battlefield). James was almost certainly killed in this first wave, as he is reported as missing in action the next day. He was declared as officially killed in action on the 24 April 1916. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Lone Pine memorial near Anzac Cove.

There is also a letter from his father Caleb, dated 23 June 1916, to the Australian Dept of Defence, requesting the return of any effects or money due. Their reply of 12 August stated that there were no effects to be returned, and that his letter has been forwarded to the paymaster for any financial matters (there is no reply from the paymaster on the file).

The final entry on James' service record noted that a copy of the book "Where the Australians Rest", a memorial scroll and plaque were sent to his father in December 1921.

The Lone Pine did not survive the battle, but Sergeant Keith McDowell took a pine cone from it as a souvenir. Seeds from this cone were successfully germinated so that descendants of this iconic tree can now be found across Australia.

Albert Halton

One name that does not appear on the Carnforth War Memorial is that of **ALBERT HALTON**, VC. Pte. 241457 Albert Halton of 1st Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, was born at 22 Albert Street, Millhead, on 1 May 1893.

On 12 October 1917 near Poelcappelle, Belgium, Halton singlehandedly captured an enemy machine gun and its crew whilst under heavy fire and then went on to capture a further 12 enemy soldiers. For his gallantry he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He survived the war returning to Carnforth where he lived until his death at the age of 78 on 24 July 1971. His Victoria Cross is now on display at the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment Museum in Lancaster.



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The information in this leaflet has been compiled from a number of sources including the Carnforth Book of Honour but if you have any additional information, please contact Carnforth Town Council via clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org

The following men do not appear to have lived in Carnforth and in some cases their connection to Carnforth is unknown

Pte 15220 **NOEL BENNETT** of 10th Bn, Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, was killed in action 19 November 1915 aged 19. He was from Sedbergh and was the son of Walter and Mary Elizabeth Bennett, of 54, Greenland Rd, Bolton.

2nd Lieutenant **FRED WILLIAM BULLOUGH** of 152nd Siege Bty, Royal Garrison Artillery, was killed in action 8 November 1917 aged 32. Son of Edward and Mercy Charlotte and husband of Ada Walsh, of "Brookfield," Westhoughton, Bolton.

Pte 8397 **JAMES DISBERRY** of 2nd Bn, Northumberland Fusiliers, was born in Carnforth and enlisted in Newcastle. He was the son of William O.B.E., and Ann, of 3 Green View, Torrisholme, Morecambe. He was killed in action 8 May 1915 aged 24.

Sub-Lieutenant **WILLIAM GILBERT** of Nelson Bn. R.N. Div, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Died on 3 June 1915.

Pte 241422 **WILLIAM GLAISTER** of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, was born in Whitehaven and was the son of Mark and Elizabeth Glaister, of 36, Hill St. He was killed in action 2 May 1918 aged 22.

L. Cpl 999 **JOHN HARPER** of "C" Comp. 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, was the son of Alexander and Ellen Harper, of 29, Wellington Rd., Lancaster. He was killed in action 13 April 1915 aged 21.

James Beckett and the sinking of HMS Alcantara

Launched in 1913, the 15,000 ton Alcantara was originally a merchant vessel that was converted into a cruiser in 1915. It became part of the 10th cruiser squadron whose mission was to patrol the high North Sea, through to the Arctic Ocean. Her first mission in the summer of 1915 was to investigate reports of a German submarine base on Jan Mayen Island, far north of the Arctic Circle. These reports proved to be incorrect and the base did not exist.

Following this she undertook several patrols until on 29 February 1916, and north of the Shetland Islands, the crew sighted a steamer flying the Norwegian flag. Captain Wardle enquired her name by signals and was told she was the Rena from South America with a cargo of coffee. Lloyd's Register proved the existence of a ship of that name, so Captain Wardle closed, signaling to the Rena to stop her engines. When she had done so, the Alcantara, closed to 2,000 yards and examined her carefully, before approaching from right astern to board. When about 1,000 yards distant, the Rena's ensign staff, carrying the Norwegian flag, dropped over the stern, her steering house on the poop disappeared, disclosing a gun; flaps fell down on the ship's side, and the previously hidden guns opened fire. The Alcantara replied at once with her bow guns. The opposing vessel was hit repeatedly, and after about forty minutes, the enemy abandoned ship, and Captain Wardle ceased firing.

The Alcantara had been badly holed in the water-line and sank at 11 am taking 68 crewmen with her, including James Beckett. The Andes, being the next ship on patrol, had closed on receiving the Alcantara's signals, and came up in time to take part in the action and sink the enemy. The Comus and Munster, which had also arrived on the scene, helped to finish off the enemy and pick up survivors. An officer and 110 men of the enemy ship were rescued. The German prisoners admitted that the sunken vessel was the Greif. She had been secretly converted into a raider at Hamburg and was heading for the Atlantic, to attack merchant shipping. The wreck of HMS Alcantara has not yet been found.



Pte 3760 **EDGAR HALL** of 1st/4th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at The Laurels, Bolton-le-Sands, with his parents John and Jane and two sisters. He was killed in action 8 August 1916 aged 26.

Pte 270145 **PERCY MACEFIELD** of 2nd/6th Bn, Manchester Regiment, was the son of William and Mary of 29, Hill St., Carnforth; and husband of Jessie of 11, Otley St., Skipton, Yorks. He was killed in action 7 October 1917 aged 34.

Pte 36267 **HARRY RATCLIFFE** of 2nd Bn, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, was the son of William and the late Agnes of 12 Ramsden St. He was killed in action 4 May 1917 aged 25.

Sapper 388757 **GEORGE WATSON** of 4th Siege Comp. (Royal Monmouth), Royal Engineers, was the son of Henry and Elizabeth, of Fair View, Newbiggin, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Co. Durham; and husband of E. G. Watson, of 5, Myerscough St., Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs. He was killed in action 24 June 1917 aged 31.

It has not been possible to find any reliable records for:

THOMAS BEDFORD, JOHN NUTTALL & JOSEPH WRIGHT

Robert Barton and the Fokker Scourge

The obituary of Robert Barton as taken from the *Lancaster Guardian* reads: "Barton Robert Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps killed in action 12 January 1916. Educated at Glenalmond school and in Germany. Employed as a metallurgist in Alabama USA. Enlisted with the 7th Battalion Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, and attached to the RFC. Shot down by Lieutenants Boelcke and Immelman piloting Fokker aircraft. Only son of Mr and Mrs Albert Edward Barton of Red Court Carnforth."

Barton was a victim of "the Fokker Scourge". In August 1915 the Fokker Eindecker came into service with the German airforce. Fast, maneuverable and armed with a belt fed machine gun that could fire straight forward without shooting the propeller off, the Eindecker was arguably the first true fighter plane. Outclassing anything being flown by the British or French it briefly dominated the skies over the western front. Such was its superiority that at one point, the life expectancy of allied pilots was reduced to 17.5 hours of flying time.



Whilst awaiting the development and delivery of new aircraft able to match the Eindecker, the Royal Flying Corps was forced to change its tactics, and from January onwards any reconnaissance mission would have to be accompanied by three escort planes. On the morning of 12 January 1916 an R.E.7 reconnaissance plane with an escort of Vickers F.B. 5s took off on a mission. At approximately 8.30 they encountered Boelcke and Immelman, and according to German records, Boelcke shot down the R.E.7 and Immelman one of the Vickers. Robert Barton, as a member of 1 Squadron, was piloting the R.E.7.

There is a final coda to this story as the *Lancaster Guardian* of 8 July 1916 reports: "A gold cigarette case which belonged to the late 2LT R Barton R.F.C. of Carnforth in whose possession it was when he was unfortunately killed in an aerial combat and fell into the German lines, has been forwarded through the American Ambassador and the War Office to his father Mr A E Barton of Red Court Carnforth. Chivalry in action!"

The Men on the Monument: The Carnforth Poppy Trail

1

Pte **ROBERT GEORGE ABBOTT** of 1st/4th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 11 Alexandra Rd with his parents Thomas and Jennie, and his sisters Florence, Edith, Mary, Jeanie, Doris & Amy. He died of his wounds on Saturday 9 September 1916 aged 18.

2

L.Cpl **ALBERT HARRY ARMER** of 6th Bn, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, lived at 4 Russell Rd with his parents Henry and Hannah and his brother William. He was killed 12 August 1915 aged 27.

3

Pte 33232 **WILLIAM ATKINSON** of 22nd Bn, Manchester Regiment, lived at 12 Edward St with his parents Peter & Margaret, and his brothers Harold, Edward & Herbert. Missing July 1916, presumed killed in action aged 25.

4

Pte 241416 **JOHN BAINES** MM of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 13 Grosvenor Place with his parents George & Mary, and his brothers George & Edwin. He was killed 8 August 1918 aged 22.

5

Cpl 1870 **THOMAS BALDERSON** of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment & Pte 242423 **SAMUEL BALDERSON** of A company 8th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 35 Highfield Terrace with their parents Thomas & Sarah, brothers Robert & James, and sisters Mary, Edith, Mabel & Elsie. Thomas was killed 27 September 1916 aged 27 & Samuel was killed 27 April 1917 aged 19.

6

2nd Lieutenant **ROBERT BARTON** of 1 Sqn Royal Flying Corps, lived with his father Albert at Red Court. This site is now occupied by Keerford View. He was killed in action 12 January 1916.

7

Pte 10485 **HERBERT BEATTIE** of 12th Bn, Royal Fusiliers, lived at 22 Preston St with his wife Maria and three children John, William & Unknown. He was killed c25-28 September 1915 aged 31.

8

Pte 384 **MICHAEL ERNEST BECK** of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 23 Edward St with his mother Mary and stepfather John. He died of his wounds 27 April 1915 aged 25.

9

Wireless Operator **JAMES BECKETT** of the Royal Naval Reserve, lived at 4 Midland Terrace with his parents James & Margaret, his brother Robert and sister Lena. He was lost at sea 29 February 1916 aged 22.

10

Sgt 8504 **ROBERT EDWARD BROCKBANK** MM of 1st Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 14 Lancaster Rd with his father Robert, stepmother Maria, step siblings Wilson & Winifred, and his half-sister Doris. He was killed in action 12 October 1917 aged 33.

11

Pte 241913 **BERT CAMBRAY** of King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 22 New St with his parents Thomas & Jane his brother James & sister Ethel. He died of his wounds in 1922 aged 42.

12

L.Cpl 41486 **JOHN CAMPBELL** of 1st Bn, Leicestershire Regiment, lived at 5 King St with his wife Isabella and daughter Janey. He was killed in action 22 October 1918 aged 37.

13

Pte 32662 **THOMAS CAPSTICK** of 8th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt, lived at 119 Hall St (now part of the A6) with his parents Robert & Margaret and his brothers Henry, Norman & Sidney. He was killed in action 16 June 1917 aged 21.

14

Cpl 142348 **DAVID CLARK** of 9th Comp, Machine Gun Corps, lived at 18 Kellet Rd with his parents John & Ada. He was killed in action 24 March 1918 aged 21.

15

Pte 1527 **JAMES CLARKE** of 6th Bn, Australian Infantry, First Australian Imperial Force, lived at 8 Midland Terrace with his parents Caleb & Jane, his brother John and his sister Annie. Missing 7 August 1915 presumed killed in action aged 21.

16

Pte 165371 **THOMAS CORNTHWAITE** of The Royal Garrison Artillery, lived at the Traveller's Rest pub (now closed) with his parents John & Janet, and brothers Edward & John. He died of his injuries June 1924 aged 26.

17

Rifleman B/202112 **JOHN EDMONDSON** of 1st Bn, Rifle Brigade, The Prince Consort's Own, lived at 65 North Rd with his parents James & Margaret, his sister Margaret and his brothers James & Albert. He was killed in action 1 November 1918 aged 25.

18

Pte 1508 **GEORGE FLEMING** of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 55 Lancaster Rd with his parents Henry & Isabella, his sisters Mary, Amy & Margaret and his brothers William & John. He was killed in action 15 August 1916 aged 21.

19

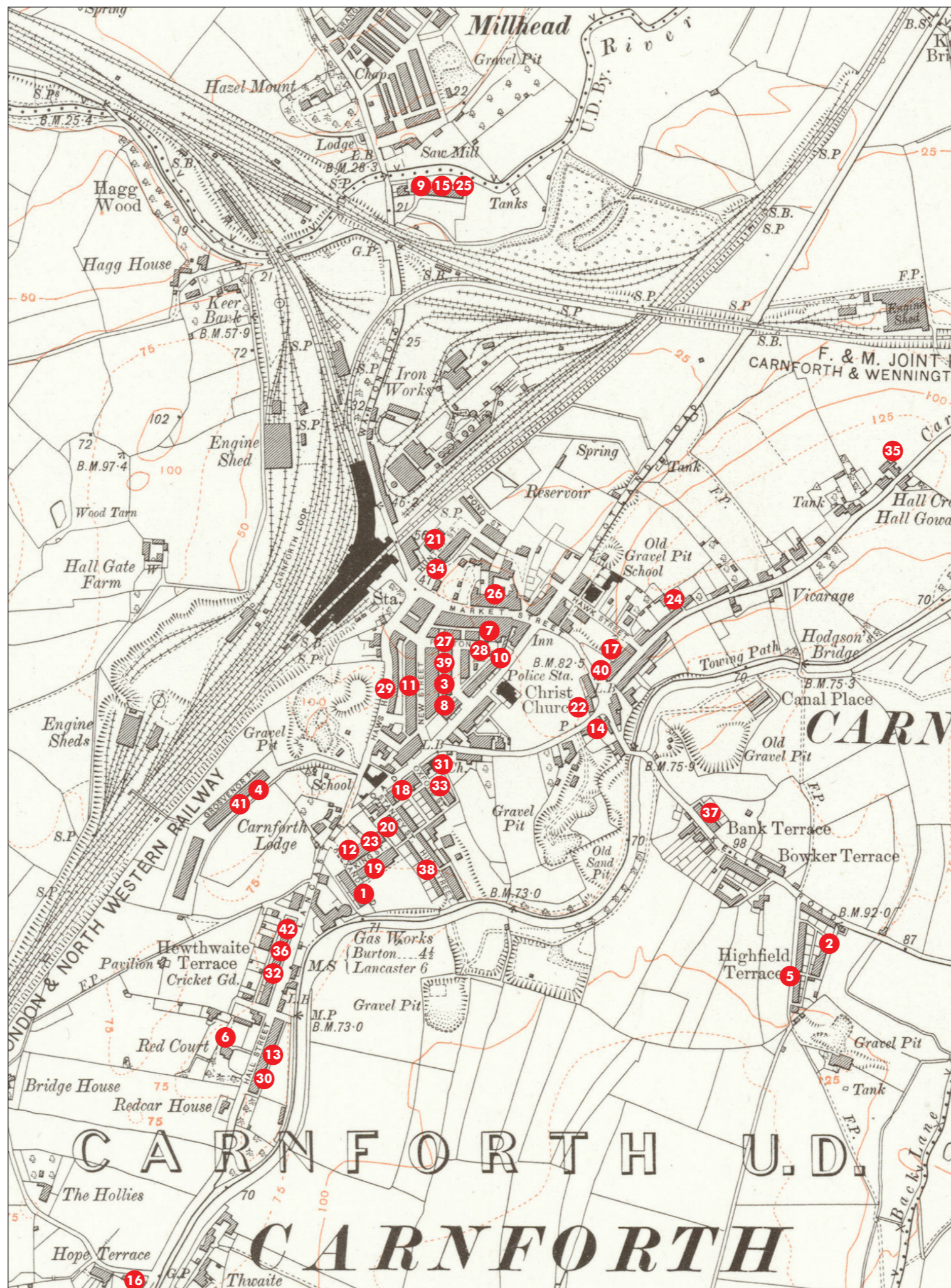
Sapper 275578 **HENRY GARDNER** of 22nd Light Operating Railway Comp, Royal Engineers, lived at 14 King St with his parents Edward & Anne, his brothers Robert, Edward, Wilfred, Richard, John & William, and his sisters, Ellen & Jane. He was killed 31 October 1917 aged 21.

20

Pte 3700 **HARRY HIGGINSON** of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 6 Stanley St with his mother Harriet, and his brother James Samuel, and James' wife Evelyn and son Robert. He was killed in action 3 August 1916 aged 22.

21

Pte 8377 **MORRIS KING** of 1st Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 4 Hunter St with his parents William & Mary, and his brothers Carl, Oscar, Walter & Harry. He was killed 28 August 1914 aged 28.



Carnforth, 1918

22

376/A Sgt **JAMES KIRKBY** of 2nd/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 93 Market St with his parents Richard & Mary, and his brothers Richard & Edgar, and his sisters Jane & Mary. He was killed in action 3 May 1915 aged 24.

23

Pte 17562 **RICHARD LITTLE** of 1st Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment boarded at 25 King St, with the Taylor family. He was killed in action 6 July 1916 aged 24.

24

Sgt 46924 **CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL** of 18th Bn, Lancashire Fusiliers, lived at 105 North Rd with his parents William & Mary, his brothers George, Harold & Albert, and his sisters Agnes & Elsie. He was killed in action 1 October 1918 aged 20.

25

Sapper 34904 **GEORGE MORLEY** 2nd Section, 5th Signal Coy, lived at 10 Midland Terrace with his parents Joseph & Mary and his brother Alfred. He was killed in action 20 February 1918 aged 25.

26

Pte 10556 **GEORGE NELSON** of 2nd Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 32 Market St with his parents Samuel & Betty, his brother Alfred and his sisters Florence, Margaret & Dinah. He was killed in action 25 February 1915 aged 27.

27

Pte 43548 **EDWIN PARKINSON** of The Labour Corps, lived at 7 Edward St with his parents Daniel & Ann, his brothers Samuel, Daniel & Sydney and his sisters Edith & Jane. He died 25 July 1917 aged 23.

28

JOHN PARKINSON lived at 15 Preston St with his wife Mary. He died of his wounds in 1923 aged 33. His service records appear to be lost.

29

Pte 2786 **WILLIAM PEDDER** of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 37 Haws Hill with his grandparents Isaac & Anne, and his sister Annie. He died of his wounds August 1916 aged 24.

30

Pte 2403 **HERBERT PENRITH** of 1st/5th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 129 Hall St with his parents Thomas & Nancy, his brothers Alfred & George and his sister Kathleen. He was killed in action 9 August 1916 aged 24.

31

Pte 24496 **EDWIN PENSWICK** of 8th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 41 Lancaster Rd with his wife Annie and his child (name unknown). He was killed in action 27 April 1917 aged 27.

32

Pte 241840 **VICTOR POSTLETHWAITE** of King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 128 Hewthwaite Terrace with his parents Plato & Mary, and his brother Cyril. He died of his wounds in 1923 aged 30. He is buried at St. Oswald's, Warton.

33

Pte G/50417 **WILLIAM RIGG** of 16th Bn, Middlesex Regiment, lived at 1 Oxford St with his grandparents John & Elizabeth. He was killed in action 18 April 1917 aged 32.

34

Pte 46466 **WILLIAM SHAW** of 23rd Bn, Manchester Regiment, lived at 1 Hunter St as a servant in the service of the William & Mary Cape. He was killed 22 October 1917 aged 28.

35

Pte G/83621 **ROBERT SIMPSON** of 24th Bn, Royal Fusiliers, lived at 135 North Rd with his parents William & Mary and his sister Ida. This property has subsequently been replaced and a newer property now stands there. He was killed in action 20 July 1918 aged 19.

36

Pte 65462 **EDWARD SMITH** of 3rd Bn, Welsh Regiment, lived at 114 Hewthwaite Terrace, with his parents Joseph & Agnes, his brothers Ben, Richard & Joseph and his sisters Madge & Bessie. He died of his wounds 17 November 1920 aged 21. He is buried at St Oswald's, Warton.

37

Pte 172461 **RICHARD SMITH** of The Royal Engineers, lived at 47 Bank Terrace with his parents Richard & Mary Anne and sister Mary Adelaide. He died of his wounds in 1919 aged 24. He is buried at St Oswald's, Warton.

38

Pte 16692 **JAMES WALKDEN** of 2nd Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 26 Hill St with his wife Mary. He was killed 21 November 1916 aged 30.

39

Pte 241421 **EDWARD WATSON** of 8th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 11 Edward St with his parents Thomas & Margaret, and his brother James. He was killed 26 April 1917 aged 23.

40

Pte 240291 **JOHN WATSON** of 8th Bn, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, lived at 61 North Rd with his wife Jennie. He was killed 12 May 1917 aged 23.

41

Pte 11872 **WILLIAM WHITESIDE** of 1st Bn, Coldstream Guards and L/Cpl 3513644 **ROBERT WHITESIDE** of 2nd Bn, Manchester Regiment, lived at 19 Grosvenor Place with their parents Benjamin & Bertha and sister Evelyn. William was killed 24 March 1916 aged 20, Robert died of his wounds 24 July 1920 aged 20.

42

Sapper 92941 **JAMES WOOD** of The Royal Engineers, lived at 110 Hewthwaite Terrace with his wife Elizabeth. He died of his wounds 26 March 1921 aged 41. He is buried at St Oswald's, Warton.