

Names of the Fallen

Taken from the Midland Railway Book of Remembrance

NAME	RANK	REGIMENT	POSITION	DEPARTMENT	STATION
Albery, R.S.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Loader	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Aldridge, E.	Sergt	East Kent	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Austin, J.T.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Foreman	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Ayre, J.M.	Sapper	R.E.	Clerk	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Ballard, A.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Carriage Cleaner	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Barnes, G.F.	Rifleman	K.R.H.	Checkloader	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Bayliss, H.	Private	Middlesex	Kitchen Porter	Hotels	London (Somers Town)
Beazley, J.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Bertrand, H.	Trooper	Hussars	Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Bill, H.	Gunner	R.F.A.	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Bowman, O.E.	Private	London	Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Briggs, A.	Private	D.C.L.L.	Waiter	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Broad, J.	Private	Sufolk	Loader	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Brown, J.M.	Private	Derby Yeomanry	Shop Clerk	Chief Mechanical Eng.	London (St Pancras)
Burdon, W.J.	Private	West Yorks	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Burge, E.E.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Porter	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Burton, W.C.	L.Cpl	K.R.H.	Carriage Cleaner	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Chance, G.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Chipperfield, B.G.	Private	D.C.L.I.	Foreman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Clarke, W.E.	Private	Queen's Westminster	Motor Attendant	Chief Mechanical Eng.	London (St Pancras)
Clayton, G.E.	Trooper	Herts. Yeomanry	Clerk	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Coleman, G.	A.B.	Royal Navy	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Coplestone, G.	Private	Welsh	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Cottrell, J.P.	2nd Lieut	Somerset L.I.	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Coulson, J.	Private	Middlesex	Goods Guard	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Cox, H.J.	Bomber	R.F.A.	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Cox, J.W.	Gunner	R.F.A.	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Crooke, T.R.	Sergt	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	Waiter	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Crouch, W.H.G.	Private	East Surrey	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Dadswell, C.	Private	Royal Sussex	Loader	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Davis, W.	Sergt	Royal Fusiliers	Loader	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Davis, W.E.	Private	East Surrey	Capstan Youth	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Day, F.W.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Labourer	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Dixon, P.G.	Private	London	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)

Dixon, W.H.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Greaser	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Drake, A.E.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Duncan, A.C.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Plateman	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
East, G.W.	Private	Royal Berks	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Eastop, C.H.	Private	Menmouth	Van Setter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Eldred, W.E.	Sergt	East Kent	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Evans, A.J.	Lieut	London	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Fairhead, W.E.	Cpl	West Surrey	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Faricy, G.J.	Cpl	Royal Fusiliers	Telephone Attendant	Telegraph (Traffic Branch)	London (St Pancras)
Field, H.E.	Private	London	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Fletcher, E.	2nd Lieut	London	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Fowler, W.	A.B.	Royal Navy	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Freshwater, F.G.	Private	M.G.C.	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Gadsby, T.	Gunner	R.F.A.	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Galloway, B.T.	2nd Lieut	Middlesex	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Garrett, E.G.	Private	Northants	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Gill, S.	Private	Hants	Liftman	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Godfrey, G.W.	L-Cpl	Royal Berks	Parcels Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Goulding, G.	Private	Royal West Surrey	Stores Porter	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Gray, H.	Private	R.A.M.C.	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Green, A.W.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Green. C.H.	Private	London	Guard Caller	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Greenoff, G.H.	Private	Leicester	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Griffiths, G.W.	Rifleman	London	Stableman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hammond, D.W.	Private	London	Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hannan, G.T.	Private	West Surrey	Van-Setter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Harding, J.	Private	West Kent	Capstan Youth	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Harrison, F.	L-Cpl	London	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Harvey, E.J.	Rifleman	London	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Harvie, A.J.	Private	London	Porter	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Haslewood, W.	Private	London	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hawkins, J.	Sergt	R.F.A.	Porter	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Haylock, R.J.	Trooper	Dragoon Guards	Carriage Cleaner	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Hayward, W.A.	Sergt	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Helsdon, G.	Private	Hants	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Herbert, H.F.	Private	South Wales Borderers	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hester, C.E.	Private	Herts	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hills, R.C.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Delivery Sheet Registrar	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hogg, T.R.	Private	London	Messenger	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Holloway, A.	Sapper	R.E.	trains Examiner	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)

Houghton, F.J.	Pte	Suffolk	Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Howarth, A.	Private	West Yorks	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Howell, C.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Coach Lifter	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Howell, J.	Private	R.M.L.I.	Van Settor	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hughes, S.E.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Humphreys, J.E.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Humphreys, J.W.C.	L-Cpl	London	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Hyde, P.	Private	London	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Ingram, J.S.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Insall, G.F.	Private	Welsh	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Jeffries, J.	Sergt	R.A.M.C.	Stocktaker	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Jennings, J.G.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Johnes, G.W.	L-Cpl	East Kent	Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Jones, H.	Private	Middlesex	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Kendrick, H.	Private	East Kent	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Kerslake, E.P.	Cpt	East Kent	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Kirby, R.A.	2nd Lieut	M.G.C.	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Kirkland, F.H.	Private	Middlesex	Checkloader	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Lambert, F.C.	Private	South Staffs	Van Setter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Lavelly, A.	Private	D.C.L.I.	Cook	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Lends, W.C.	Private	London	Number Taker	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Lewis, G.	Steward	R.N.A.S.	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Liney, T.H.	Private	Royal Berks	Van Setter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Lisk, A.E.	Private	London	Hydraulic cleaner	Chief Mechanical Eng.	London (St Pancras)
Lodge, T.W.	Private	Royal West Surrey	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Loman, C.W.	Private	East Kent	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Loman, G.D.	2nd Lieut	Welsh	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Lottici, C.	Private	Italian Army	Waiter	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Mansell, H.A.	Trooper	Lancers	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Marechallat, A.	Private	French Army	Cook	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Marshall, R.	Private	M.G.C.	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Martin, A.	Private	Middlesex	Labourer	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Martin, T.E.	Private	East Kent	Office Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Matthews, C.S.	Private	Essex	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Messenger, H.	Private	Middlesex	Porter	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Miller, F.H.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Baker	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Moy, T.W.	Private	Royal Warrwick	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Nash, E.J.	Sergt	Lancs Fusiliers	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Nelson, B.A.	Private	East Kent	Waiter	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Newcombe, C.F.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Porter	Goods	London (St Pancras)

Norman, E.C.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Osbond, W.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Osborne, S.W.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Checkloader	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Oxley, J.	Cpl	East Kent	Cook	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Paisley, E.G.	C.Q.M.S.	East Surrey	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Parker, R.A.	Cpl	Bedford	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Peel, H. W.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Checker	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Phillips, A.W.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Plumber, R.S.	Gunner	R.G.A.	Capstan Youth	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Poole, A.C.	Cpl	Royal Berks	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Powell, E.	Rifleman	London	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Pratt, W.	Rifleman	K.R.R.	Stocktaker	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Priddle, G.A.	Private	Royal Irish	Scotcher	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Pritchard, A.	Sapper	R.E.	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Rackliff, H.	Private	London Irish	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Randall, G.W.	Rifleman	London	Capstan Youth	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Ranson, A.F.	Private	West Surrey	Van Boy	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Rawlings, H.E.	Sergt	Bedford	Clerk	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Raymond, W.G.	1st Class Boy	Royal Navy	Van Boy	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Rimmington, E.	Gunner	R.F.A.	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Roberts, A.A.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Greaser	Carriage and Wagon	London (St Pancras)
Robertson, F.	Private	London	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Robinson, G.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Loader	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Sage, W.R.	Private	Queen's Royal West Surrey	Clerk	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Searlen, C.H.	Private	East Kent	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Sharpe, J.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Skidmore, G.T.	L-Cpl	Middlesex	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Slater, W.	Private	Hants	Valet	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Smith, T.G.	Private	London	Delivery Sheet Registrar	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Smith, W.	Private	London	Messenger	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Speller, W.H.	Private	Suffolk	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Spencer, T.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Head Plateman	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Staddon, W.J.	Private	East Surrey	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Staples, G.	Sapper	R.E.	Labourer	Way & Works	London (St Pancras)
Steadman, J.	Private	Bedford	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Styche, W.	Private	Royal Berks	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Sullivan, A.T.	Private	Sommerset L.I.	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Sutch, J.	Private	East Kent	Waiter	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Swan, W.A.	Private	Bedford	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Tauzin, A.	Private	French Army	Cook	Hotels	London (St Pancras)

Taylor, F.J.	Private	Royal Fusiliers	Van Settor	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Taylor, R.G.D.	Private	Lancs Fusiliers	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Terry, H.G.	Private	K.O.Y.L.I	Capstanman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Thompson, J.R.	Gunner	R.F.A.	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Thynne, P.	Pte	Irish Guards	Porter-Guard	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Toon, C.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Toon, V.	Private	Leicester	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Truby, S.W.	Private	London	Capstan Youth	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Tyler, H.H.	Captain	Notts and Derby	Clerk	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Uzzell, F.D.	Sergt	R.F.A.	Gas Labourer	Chief Mechanical Eng.	London (St Pancras)
Wagner, L.G.	L-Cpl	Bedford	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Waite, W.G.	L-Cpl	K.O.S.R.	Van Settor	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Warren, R.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Watts, F.	L-Cpl	Middlesex	Porter	Goods	London (Somers Town)
Watts, W.	Cyclist	London	Number Taker	Goods	London (St Pancras)
West, C.A.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
White, F.J.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Williams, B.	Cpl	Essex	Waiter	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Williams, J.W.	Private	Gordon Highlanders	Carman	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Wilmott, A.	Rifleman	London	Porter	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Wilson, C.L.	Rifleman	Rifle Brigade	Number Taker	Traffic - Coaching Station	London (St Pancras)
Wingfield, A.	Private	Royal Berks	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)
Wodams, P.	Private	Northants	Dining Car Attendant	Hotels	London (St Pancras)
Wren, F.S.	Private	R.M.L.I.	Van Guard	Goods	London (St Pancras)

JOHN MCDONALD AYRE (1891-1917)

Born 20 July 1891 to John McDonald Ayre, a Scottish railway clerk for the MR based at Hemel Hempstead, Herts., and his wife Rosa Munn. On the 1901 census he is shown as a scholar aged 9, with two younger siblings at 13 Eunice Villas, Boxmoor near Hemel Hempstead. He joined the MR becoming a clerk like his father. He started at Somers Town Goods Yard on 25 February 1908 at a salary of £55 a year. This increased to £70 p.a. in 1913. On the 1911 census the family had moved to 16 Bridge Street, Hemel Hempstead. John was one of three children living with his parents, who had had six but three had died young. On 8 September 1915 he married Miss Mabel Frances Langdon of Westbury, Wiltshire in the parish church. He said he was living at Boxmoor, Herts at the time, but they set up home in 8 Eden Terrace, Westbury. His work must have meant he lived away during the week. His father died at the young age of 44 in early 1916. At St Pancras in February 1917 he enlisted in the Royal Engineers as a sapper (No.238869) in the Railway Operating Division. He served at Arras and Vimy Ridge, but contracted an illness and was sent back to England. He died on 27 May 1917 at the Military Hospital, Shrewsbury and was buried in Westbury Cemetery, Wiltshire. He left £89 in his will to his widow Mabel, who gave birth to their son, also called John McDonald Ayre, on 14 July 1917. She received a war gratuity for her late husband in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1891 Qtr 3 and 1917 Qtr 3; Wiltshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1916; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; England, The National Roll of the Great War, 1914-1918; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index; England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations); UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

HARRY BILL (1898-1918)

Born in Willow Square, Islington in summer 1898, his father George was a railway porter. As a child the family lived at 45 Polygon Buildings, Somers Town. This group of four barrack-like blocks replaced the once famous Polygon, pulled down in 1891. The Buildings were built by the MR to compensate for the huge loss of homes caused by the construction of its station and goods yards. However most of the inhabitants, like Harry's father, were MR employees and the men who looked after the blocks wore MR livery. Oakshott Court has since replaced the Buildings. By 1911 the family had moved, after a few years in Walthamstow, to 30F Pickering Street Buildings, Islington where Harry was a scholar aged 12. On 30 December 1915 aged 17 he joined the Kentish Town Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen. He was recorded as a van guard. Harry enlisted at Holloway as a gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery (No. 155365). He died aged 19 of his wounds on the Western Front on 28 March 1918. He is buried in France at the Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension. His mother Sarah received a war gratuity for Harry in 1918 and 1919.

Sources 1901 Census; 1911 Census; Birth Registrations Jul-Sep 1898; Trades Union Registers; UK Soldiers died in the Great War; British Army Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-20; UK WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls; UK Commonwealth War Graves; UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects,

JAMES BROAD (1878-1918)

Born 25 August 1879 in Islington James Westcott Broad and Sarah Martha Joyce. On the 1881 census the couple is living at 40 Roman Road, Lower Holloway with their six children; James is the youngest. His father is a plasterer. Ten years later the family is at 15 Dorinda Street, Barnsbury. James is at school and now has two younger sisters. On 21 September 1897 aged 18 he enlisted as a Private (No.4710) in the 1st Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. Since leaving school he had been working as a plasterer like his father. He was 5ft 3 ins tall, with tattoos on his forearms. He served for seven years, and was posted to Malta (Dec 1897- Jan 99), where he spent a month in hospital in August 1898 with boils (caused by the climate). Whilst he was back in England in 1899 his mother died. He was then in South Africa (Nov 1899 – Sep 02), during the Boer War. In September 1904 he transferred to the Army Reserve, with whom he served for another five years until September 1909. He enlisted with the Reserve for a further period of four years on 10 February 1910. Having left the regular army aged 25 he started with the MR as a porter at St Pancras on 26 September 1904, at 18 shillings (90p) a week, rising to £1 3s (£1.15) a week by 1913. Aged 27, he joined the Kentish Town branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. Later that year, in October 1907, his father died. On the 1911 census he is living alone in one room at 70 Cloudesley Street, Islington. He is 31 and a railway goods porter. Within a few months he had moved to 79 Compton Buildings, Clerkenwell and married the girl next door – Miss Ellenor Margaret Collins (at No.80). They were wed at St Peter's Church, Clerkenwell on 2 July 1911. They moved to 4 Copenhagen Street and had a son James born on 2 March 1912 and baptised on 21 July at St Peter's. They had a second boy Charles Alfred at the end of 1913. After war broke

out James enlisted at Whitehall as a Private (No.18988) in the 11th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. He disembarked in France on 27 May 1915. He was wounded in action on 24 October 1918, and died of his wounds on 17 November 1918, a few days after the war had ended. He was buried at Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Treport, France. His widow, now at 2C, Lewis Buildings, Liverpool Road, Islington, received a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources England & Wales Births 1879 Qtr 4; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920; London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; Soldiers Died In The Great War; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt Of Honour; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

WILLIAM JAMES BURDON (1897-1918)

William was born in 27 July 1897 to Alfred Burdon and wife Sarah. They lived at 5 Henry Place, Islington. His father had been born in Somers Town and was a fruit dealer, trading on his own account. WJ was baptised on August 11 at St Silas Church, Pentonville. In 1901 the family were living at 17 Queensbury Street, Islington next door to a pub, the Lord John Russell. WJ had two elder siblings, both at school. By the 1911 census WJ was himself a scholar aged 13 living with his parents and his sister Charlotte in three rooms at 116 Shepperton Road, Islington. When he left school aged 14 he started working for the MR at St Pancras as a carman on 5 October 1911 for 10 shillings (50p) a week. After 18 months this was raised to 12 shillings (60p), and he received annual increases until he was mobilised in 1917. He enlisted at Islington on 11 Dec 1915 aged 18 in the 6th Reserve Cavalry Regt as a Private (No. 22481). He was of average height (5ft 6ins), weighing 141 lbs. and said to be of good physical development, with a tattoo on his forearm. His army medical records note that he contracted gonorrhoea. He was in the Reserve until mobilised on 4 April 1917, training at Dunbar, Scotland. He was transferred on 31 August 1917 as a Private in the 1st Battalion of Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment (No. 56912). He was in France from 25 October 1917 until 21 March 1918, the day the Germans launched their 1918 Spring Offensive. He was taken as a Prisoner of War to Germany where he died of his wounds a few weeks later on 11 April 1918. A separation allowance was paid to his mother up to 18 November 1918. His father received a plaque and a commemorative scroll the following year.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records 1914-20; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920;

JOSEPH COULSON (1873-1916)

He was born Joseph Charles Coulson on 31 October 1873 in St Pancras to Thomas Coulson and his wife. His father was a butcher. He attended King Street School in Camden Town. The family then lived at 17 Bayham Street, but by 1891 was at 84 King Street (now Plender Street) Camden Town. Here Joseph was working with his father as a butcher. On 29 Nov 1892 aged 19 he joined the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment at Hounslow as a Private (No.3309). He was described as a hammerman, just under 5ft 4 ins tall, with tattoos on both his forearms and declared fit for army service. He was posted to Gibraltar in March 1893 serving there for 2 years. During 1894 he caught a severe case of gonorrhoea and then developed varicose veins and varix disease, classed as a permanent disability: "to a slight extent it will prevent him from earning a living, but not very much". He was returned to Aldershot and discharged from the Army as medically unfit on 23 April 1896. He joined the Midland Railway working in the Goods Yard at St Pancras. He was a member of the Kentish Town branch of the trades union called the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. In 1901 he was earning 23s (£1.15p) a week as a Goods Guard in the Commercial Handling Department. He became a head guard in 1907 with a 2s (10p) weekly raise. By this time he had a family of his own. His first child Joseph Charles was born on 29 November 1897. His partner was Helena Elizabeth Martin, otherwise Nellie, and they had set up home at 11 King Street, Camden Town. They married on 10 September 1898 at St Pancras Registry Office. They had four children together; two girls and two boys. On the 1901 census he was living with Nellie (born 1878) and 3 young children above an empty shop at 69 King Street, St Pancras. By 1911 he was living with four children and his wife Winifred (born 1872) at 2 Oval Road, Regents Park. He claimed to have been married to her twelve years. The youngest child also Winifred is aged 3. It seems that Nellie had either died or had left Joseph around 1905 and he had then taken up with Winifred. They were living at 2 Underhill Street, where Joseph was on the Electoral Register from 1907, and from whence their child Charles Henry was baptised at St Michael's Camden Town. Joseph signed up a few days after the War started on 10 August 1914, aged 40. He rejoined the Middlesex Regiment in the 2nd Battalion as a special reservist, a Private (No. S/23). His varicose veins were considered a slight defect but not enough to make him unfit. During training

he had several run-ins with the authorities: he overstayed his pass by 24 hours in April 1915 and forfeited 2 day's pay. The following month he was disobedient to a superior and then broke out of his barracks for two days. For this he lost 3 days' pay and was given 168 hours in the field as a punishment. In France he fractured his right fibia and sailed back to England from Rouen on 16 October 1915. He spent over a month in hospital. He was then posted on 14 January 1916 but spent five weeks in a military hospital in Newcastle being treated for syphilis. In April 1916 he absented himself from a military tattoo for two days and was fined 3 day's pay. He rejoined the Battalion in France on 8 May 1916. But within two months he was killed in action, on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Somme. Ten months later his wife Winifred received a widow's pension of 18s 6d (93p) a week for herself and two children. She was living at 44 High Street Camden Town. In January 1922 she was told her husband's body had been removed from its temporary burial place and reinterred at Ovivillers Military Cemetery, Albert, France. She was by then living in Somers Town at 2, Clarendon Street.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales Marriages 1837-2005; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records 1760-1915; British Army Service Records 1914-1920; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

HENRY JOSEPH COX (1894-1918)

Born 11 September 1894 to Henry Thomas Cox and his wife Nelly Wood at 200 Copenhagen Street, Islington. He was their first child, baptised on 30 September at All Saints, Battlebridge. In 1901 Henry is aged six and living with his parents and two younger brothers at 236 York Road (now York Way), Islington. His father is a carman for the MR. Henry also joined the MR on 16 March 1909 as a Vanguard at St Pancras Goods Yard. He was paid 11 shillings (55p) a week initially, rising to 17s. (85p) in September 1913. In 1911 Henry is living with his parents and five siblings at 9 Hampden Street, Somers Town, very close to St Pancras Goods Yard, where his younger brother John is also working as a vanguard. Their father has left the MR's employ and is a 'commission agent in flowers'. Henry enlisted at St Pancras as a gunner in the 250th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery (No. 781097). He was made a Bombardier and by 1918 was an acting Lance Bombardier. He died of his wounds in France on 6 September 1918. He was buried at St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. A war gratuity was paid to his mother in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

JAMES WALTER COX (1891-1917)

Born 13 April 1891 to Edward John Cox and his wife Alice Constable of 8 Prospect Row, Islington. His father was a house painter. He was baptised on 1 May 1891 along with his elder brother Edward at St Silas' Church, Penton Street. The family was still living at 8 Prospect Row in 1901. His father died in April 1904 leaving his mother a widow at 32. As soon as he turned 14 Edward left school and on 18 April 1905 joined the MR as a carman at St Pancras Goods Station. His wage was 9 shillings (45p) a week. This rose steadily to £1 5s (£1.25) a week by November 1914. On the 1911 census he was at 164 Pentonville Road, within walking distance of St Pancras. He is listed as a van guard with the MR. His mother was a widow, making ends meet as a charwoman. She was living with her five children in two rooms. In the summer of 1911 James married Minnie A Davies in Islington. They set up home locally: on the 1915 Electoral Roll he is recorded as a lodger renting an unfurnished first floor room at 33 Richard Street, Islington. In July 1914 James joined the Kentish Town branch of the National Union of Railwaymen. He was 23 and a carman for the MR. James left the MR when he enlisted on 10 May 1915 in the Territorial Force of the Royal Field Artillery as a gunner (No.925897). He became an acting Bombardier. He died of his wounds on the Western Front on 10 October 1917. A war gratuity was paid to his widow in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; London, England, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

WILLIAM HENRY GEORGE CROUCH (1889-1917)

William Henry George Crouch was born in September 1889, the eldest child of William Henry Crouch and his wife Lily. They lived in 29 Lefferin Road, Stamford Brook and had William baptised on 22 September at the local church of St Mary's. His father was a laundry man. On the 1891 census the family is living in one room at 25 Lefferin Road. William is a toddler; his baby sister Florence is just two months old. Three years later a brother George was born and on the 1901 census the family of five was in three rooms at 19 Bradmore Park Road, Hammersmith. He started working for the MR as a parcels van-boy at St Pancras on 20 October 1904, aged 14. His wage was 8 shillings (40p) a week; this increased to 12s (60p) at the end of 1907. On the 1911 census William is aged 21, single and described as a senior van boy on the railways. He and his two siblings are living with their parents in three rooms at 44 Lysia Street, Fulham. William enlisted at Fulham and was posted Private (No.4706) in the 8th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. Training took place at Colchester and then on Salisbury Plain. He disembarked in France on 27 July 1915. He took part in the Battle of the Somme during 1916. He was killed in action (missing presumed dead) during the Third Battle of the Scarpe on 3 May 1917. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial at Arras, France. A war gratuity was paid to his father William in 1919.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; Soldiers Died in the Great War; Find A Grave Index; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

WILLIAM HENRY DIXON (1897-1915)

William was born on 14 November 1897 at 8 Kelly Street, described by Charles Booth compiler of the London poverty maps at the time 'as the worst street for immorality in Kentish Town'. He was baptised at St Martin's, Gospel Oak on 19 December 1897. His parents were William John Dixon and Louisa Clarke Jeffery; William was their eldest child. William's father was a pianoforte finisher. He worked for Hicks & Son, one of the once numerous piano making firms in this part of town. William grew up in Kentish Town and by 1911 was living with his parents and four younger siblings at 111 Malden Road. The family of seven was in two rooms. Upon leaving school he joined the Midland Railway. He was employed as a greaser, ensuring that the axle boxes on railway waggons were full of grease. [W H Dixon is listed under 'Trains Office' in the MR staff book for 1914 earning £120 per annum but this must refer to a clerk.] After the war broke out he enlisted as a Private (No.5783) in the 9th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. He trained at Aldershot and then left for France in May 1915. He was killed in action on 9 August 1915, aged 17. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres. A war gratuity was paid to his mother Louisa in 1919.

Sources London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; 1911 Census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Find A Grave website; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929;

CHARLES HENRY EASTOP (1899-1918) Born 12 February 1899, son of Charles Henry and his wife Minnie Chalmers. In 1901 the three were living at 6 Queensland Square, Queensland Road, Highbury. His father was a coal porter and his mother a laundress. The family then moved to 6 Milton Grove, Upper Holloway. On 17 November 1902 he attended Yerbury Road School, but a few days later they realised he was under age (not yet four) so he was asked to leave for the winter. He came back on 18 May 1903, but left when his family moved in 1906. The family moved back to Queensland Road, to two rooms at No.67. Charles aged 13 is living here with his parents and three younger siblings on the 1911 census. The next year he turned 14 and began working for the MR as a van setter at St Pancras Goods Yard. He enlisted at Holloway on 10 May 1916, claiming he was 18 (he was a year younger). He gave his address as 16 Victoria Place, Queensland Road, Holloway. His medical examination found he had tattoos on his forearm, a scar on his chin and that he was 5 ft 3 ins tall. The doctor wrote that he was "small but will develop". Charles was posted as a Private (No.5867) in the 5th Battalion (The Queens) of the Royal West Surrey Regiment. He was transferred to the Monmouthshire Regiment in December 1916 as a Private (No.267295). He was in training at 'Home' until 14 September 1918, when he left for the Western Front, where he joined the Regiment's 2nd Battalion. He was killed in action there exactly one month later on 14 October 1918. He was buried in the Dadizeele New British Cemetery at Moorslede, West Flanders. His father received a war gratuity for him in 1919 and a commemorative plaque and scroll in 1921.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Find A Grave Index; UK, Army Registers of

Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

ALBERT JOHN EVANS (1886-1917)

Born in Lambeth April 11 1886, the eldest of four children born to John Evans from Carmarthenshire and his English wife Mary Ann (Annie). His father became a Superintendent in the Metropolitan Police. His career meant the family moved quite often. On the 1891 census Albert aged 5 was living with his family at 6 Reventlow Road, Eltham. His father was a police sergeant. By 1901 the family has moved to 118 Barnsbury Road, Islington. His father is now a police inspector while Albert is 14 with no occupation. Albert started working for the MR as an accounts clerk (Third Class) at Bow Station on 23 June 1902. He was paid £25 a year but this rose steadily to £90 by the start of 1912. In April that year he was transferred to St Pancras to become a Ledger Clerk at the Goods Manager's Office. This paid £95 p.a. On the 1911 census Albert was aged 24, single and living with his family at 13 Stanlake Road, Shepherds Bush. He and his three siblings are all working as clerks, and as his father – now superintendent - has written on the census form, were 'all in excellent health'. He enlisted in the 19th (County of London) Battalion (St Pancras) of the London Regiment as a Private (No.2678) He was wounded at the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915. Commissioned as Second Lieutenant on 19 December 1916, Albert was killed in action on 15 June 1917. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial at Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France. His parents had moved again to 45 Collingwood Avenue, Muswell Hill when his mother received a war gratuity for him.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

WALTER EDWARD FAIRHEAD (1893-1916)

Walter Edward and his twin Percy James were born to William Fairhead and his wife Elizabeth Jane (Jennie) on 30 November 1892. They were baptised together on February 1893 at St Anne's Church, Tollington Park. The family lived at 27 Hatley Road and their father was a carpenter. The family of eight was living in four rooms at 27 Henrietta Road, Holloway by 1901. WE was a scholar but his twin brother Percy had died in 1894. The family moved again to 41 Osman Road, South Tottenham by 1911. William and Jane had had 13 children, 10 survived and were all living with their parents in a 5-roomed house. WE is listed as a "railway porter". He started working for the MR on 18 May 1908 as a vanguard based on 13 shillings (65p) a week. This was increased to 15 shillings (75p) a week in 1910. He was transferred to South Tottenham Station but moved back to St Pancras in 1912. In the early weeks of the war he enlisted on 20 Sep 1914 as a Private in 2nd Battalion of Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment G/5471. His medical records show that he was 5ft 6ins tall and had various scars on his face, as well as cysts on his arms which were not "sufficient to cause rejection". After training he disembarked in France on 15 June 1915. Some records suggest he may have acted as Lance/Corporal. He was killed on 1 September 1916 on the Somme and his name (as a Private) is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial. His mother received a war gratuity for him in October 1919. She was then living at 7 St John's Road, Tottenham, where she received a scroll and a commemorative plaque for her son.

Sources England & Wales Births 1837-2006, Qtr 1 1893; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920; Surrey History Centre QRWS/1/3/3; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour; Soldiers Died In The Great War; Britain, Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards; British Armed Forces And Overseas Deaths And Burials; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

HARVEY EDWARD FIELD (1887-1917)

Harvey was born on 31 December 1887 in Brixton to Josiah Harvey Field and his wife Elizabeth. His father was a telegraphist, eventually becoming a superintendent at the Central Telegraph Office in the City of London. The family moved to Ivy Villa, 14 Earlsmead Road, Tottenham but his parents seem to have separated as by 1901 his mother is shown as the head of the household there but his father is living as a lodger in Leyton. Ten years later his father is living with Nellie Butler, a so-called 'adopted daughter' aged 24, in a flat at 3 Cranworth Gardens, The Oval. In 1901 Harvey was with mother and five siblings having just left school with no occupation. Two years later on 6 April 1903 he joined the MR as a clerk at their Delivery Office in Whitecross Street, Islington, linked to operations at St Pancras. His starting salary was just £25 per annum but had increased

to £80 by 1911. By then the family had moved to 87 Raleigh Road, Hornsey. Harvey was still living there when he married Lily Mathews on 28 June 1913 at St Peter's Church, Hornsey. They were both aged 25. They set up home at 28 Warwick Gardens, Harringay where their daughter Lucy Bessie was born on 6 June 1914 and baptised three weeks later at St Peter's Church, Hornsey. He joined the London Regt on 11 November 1915, listed as 5ft 4 ins tall. The medical officer said he was fit for field services either at home or abroad. He was however placed in the Army Reserve until he was mobilised at the end of July 1917 as a Private (No. 537050) in 2/15th Battalion of the London Regt (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles). He trained for four months in England before he sailed for Egypt on 1 Dec 1917 to take part in the Palestinian Campaign against the Ottoman Empire. He was on board HMT Aragon. The ship was torpedoed on 30 December 1917 just off Alexandria with the loss of 610 lives, including Harvey, a day before his 30th birthday. A war gratuity was paid to his widow, who had moved to 97, Falkland Road, Hornsey. Harvey left her £308 18s in his will. He is commemorated on the Chatby Memorial in Alexandria to those who have no other grave but the sea.

Sources England & Wales Births 1837-2006; 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records 1914-20; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour; England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966

FREDERICK GEORGE FRESHWATER (1899-1918) He was born in 5 May 1899 to Frederick George Freshwater and his wife (and cousin) Edith and was baptised at St Jude, Grays Inn Road, three weeks later. The family lived at 33 Compton Street, Clerkenwell. His father kept horses and was a cabman. The family moved to 112 Euston Road, where they appear on the 1901 census and then to 9 Devonshire Mews, Marylebone where FG attended the local school from August 1904, aged five. The family had moved again, to 3 Risinghill Street, Pentonville, by 1911 when FG was still a scholar, aged 12. Upon leaving school, on 7 May 1913 he became a van guard for the MR in its Goods Yard. He was earning 10 shillings (50p) a week at first but this eventually rose to 17 shillings (85p). Aged 16 he joined the National Union of Railwaymen (Kentish Town Branch). He enlisted as Private in the 49th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (No. 136561). He was killed in action on the Western Front on 11 October 1918, a month before the end of the war, aged 19. He was buried in the Wellington Cemetery, Rieux-en-Cambrésis. His father received a war gratuity for FG in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Trades Union Membership Registers; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Find A Grave Index.

BERNARD THOMAS GALLOWAY (1887-1916)

He was born on 12 February 1887, the first child of Walter and Julia Galloway. Walter was a railway clerk and they lived at 5 St Paul's Road, St Pancras (now Agar Grove). He attended local schools and in April 1899 started at St Anne's School, Camden Town but left within a month because his parents decided to move to Hertfordshire, where brother Alex was born. In 1901 the family were living at Tennyson Road, Harpenden and BT, now aged 14, had just become a railway clerk like his father. He joined the MR shortly before the census on 22 March as a foreign correspondence clerk third class at a salary of £25 per annum. This was raised to £30 p.a. in 1903 before he was transferred in 1904 to Aldersgate. In 1906 he takes over as a porters operations clerk and is earning £90 per annum by 1913. On the 1913 census he is shown as working for the MR as a railway clerk and living as a boarder in the household of Ada Williams, aged 39, at 7 Cutcombe Mansions, Cutcombe Road, Camberwell. He subsequently moved to 106, Gordon Hill, Enfield, Middlesex. He joined the 9th Middlesex Regt as a sergeant (no. 3232) on 10 November 1915 and transferred to the 8th Battalion (Territorial) of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment as 2nd Lieutenant. He was killed in action in France on 6 October 1916. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France and on the war memorial at the Territorial Army Drill Hall, Hanworth Road, Hounslow. In his will he left £141 5s 6d to Frederick Alphonso Teal and his former landlady Ada Williams.

Sources 1891 census, 1901 census; 1911 census; England and Wales Births 1887 Qtr 1; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Middlesex War Memorials; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966

GEORGE WILLIAM GODFREY (1884-1916)

Born George William Onion in April 1884 to Miss Winifred Onion, herself illegitimate, in the village of Northill, Bedfordshire. On the 1891 census she is lodging with her son in a cottage in Ickwell Green, Northill. She has no occupation while George aged 7 is at school. Soon after she moved with George to London and on 1 August 1892 married Jonathan Godfrey, a labourer, at St Barnabas, Hornsey Road. They were living at 8 Albany Place, Islington. George adopted his step-father's surname. His mother had two children by Jonathan Godfrey, but he died aged 32 in early 1899. By then George was working for the MR. He started on 21 July 1898 as a parcels delivery boy at St Pancras. His initial pay was 8 shillings (40p) a week. This increased each year around his birthday. He was earning £1 a week as a parcels porter by April 1904. He was a member of the Kentish Town Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen. On the 1901 census George is living with his widowed mother (making ends meet as a needlewoman), his two half-brothers and his mother's sister Susan Onion. The four live in two rooms at 46 Stanmore Street, Islington. He is aged 17 and working for the MR. The family moved to Wood Green where his mother died in 1909, aged 43. On the 1911 census George (listed as William George) is the head of the household at 56 Nightingale Road, Wood Green. The household comprised his two half-brothers, Reginald and the oddly-named Esma, and another aunt, Elizabeth Onion. After war broke out he enlisted and became a Lance Corporal (No.12021) in the 6th Battalion of the Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment. He disembarked in France on 25 July 1915. He died on 22 November 1915 at Etaples. George was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France. His sole legatee was his aunt Mrs Susan Friend (nee Onion) who received a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1882 Qtr 1; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Trade Union Membership Registers; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died In The Great War; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

GEORGE HENRY GREENOFF (1895-1916)

Born 2 May 1895 to George Greenoff and his wife Louisa Webb in St Pancras District, their first male child. His father was a cab driver, born in Highgate. George had one older sister and by 1901 there were three younger siblings. The family of seven was then living in two rooms at 37 Preston Street, Kentish Town. George left school when he turned 14 and immediately began working for the MR as a vanguard at St Pancras Goods Yard. He was paid 16s (80p) a week to start. This rose to £1 2s (£1.10) on his 20th birthday. On the 1911 census he is living with his parents and four siblings in three rooms at 21 Grafton Terrace, Kentish Town and working as a vanguard. By 1915 the family was at 119 Weedington Road, Kentish Town. George enlisted as a Private (No. 1029) in the 2nd Battalion of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) from 9 July 1915. He disembarked in France on 5 August 1915. He was killed in action on 14 July 1916 (listed as missing presumed dead). He is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres. In some records there has been a confusion with his father who shared the same first name, suggesting that it was George senior who was killed during the war. The 1939 Register shows that he was very much alive, a retired taxi driver.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1895 Qtr 2; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Ireland, Casualties of World War I, 1914-1922; Web: International, Find A Grave Index; 1939 Register.

JOSEPH HAWKINS (1890-1918)

Born in Hackney on 28 October 1890 to Joseph Hawkins and his wife Eleanor (Ellen), their first child. He was baptised on 16 November at St Mark's, Dalston. In 1891 they are living in his grandmother's rooms at 7 Abbott Street, Hackney. His father was a coach painter. Joseph went to Matthias Road School in Hackney, then on 2 May 1899 he started at Napier Road School. The family was then living at 5 Sylvia Road. He left the school towards the end of the year, when the family moved to 97 Spencer Road, Stoke Newington, where they appear on the 1901 census. In May 1906 Joseph, aged 15, started work for the MR as a capstan man at Somers Town Goods Yard. By 1913 he was paid £1 3s (£1.15) each week. He joined the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in September 1911. He left the job when he enlisted in 1915. On the 1911 census the family is at 12 Mayville Street, Mildmay Park. In 22 years of marriage Joseph's parents have had 10 children but five have died. The remaining five include Joseph who is working on the railways. He enlisted in July 1915 and was sent to France as a Sergeant (No.22718) in the Royal Field Artillery. He was transferred as a Sergeant (No.36723) in its 190 Brigade. He died of his wounds on 14 October 1918 during the final advance in Flanders, at the 140th Field Ambulance on the Western Front. His mother received a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; Britain, Trade Union membership registers; UK, Railway Employment Records; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

REGINALD JAMES HAYLOCK (1889-1918)

Reginald was born in March 1889 in Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire the youngest son of farm labourer Ernest Haylock and his wife Jeannette Nunn. The family lived in a cottage on Vicarage Lane (in 1901) but after Ernest died in 1903 they moved to Chapel Lane in the village, where RJ is shown on the 1911 census as single and a farm labourer, his widowed mother and his sister Daisy both making ends meet as rag sorters. He began work for the MR as a carriage cleaner, joining the National Union of Railwaymen, Kentish Town Branch, on 16 July 1914. He enrolled in London as a Private in 20th Hussars Battalion of the Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line (No.15106). He arrived in France on 13 July 1915 and was later promoted to Corporal. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 1 April 1918, aged 29. He is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial. A war gratuity of £22 was divided up between his three sisters, his mother having died in 1917.

Sources England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index Qtr 2 1889; 1891 Census; 1901 Census; 1911 Census; Trades Union Registers; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; UK, Commonwealth War Graves;

CHARLES EDWARD HESTER (1890-1917)

He was born in St Albans, Hertfordshire in late 1890 the first child of Thomas Charles Hester, a young lawyer's clerk and his wife Louisa. They lived in Cumberland Road. CE grew up in St Albans. In 1901 the family had moved to London Road and by 1911 the family of eight was living at 36, Prospect Road, where his parents, who both lived well into their eighties, continued to reside until their deaths in the 1950s. By now CE was working for the MR as a clerk. He had joined on 14 May 1906 at a starting salary of just £25 per annum but this had risen to £80 p.a. by 1913. CE joined the army on 13 December 1915 at Hertford as a Private (No.6085) in the Hertfordshire Regt, and shortly afterwards married Jessie Evans in St Albans in early 1916. He was transferred on 28 June 1916 to the 17th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (No.235234). He was killed in action in the Third Battle of Ypres on the Western Front on 31 July 1917, aged 26. Army records show that he was 5ft 7ins tall, his sight was normal and his physical development 'satisfactory'. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres. His widow received a pension for herself (they had no children) of 13s 9d (68p).

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England and Wales Births 1890 Qtr 4; England & Wales Marriages 1916 Qtr 1; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records; British Army Medal Index Cards, 1914-1920; Soldiers Died in the Great War; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour.

THOMAS RICHARD HOGG (1898-1918)

Born 4 January 1898 to Edmund James Hogg and his wife Harriett Emma Berry in Tottenham. The couple had six children but only three survived infancy. On the 1901 census the family is living at 10 Franklin Street, Tottenham. They are still there in 1911, when Thomas is a scholar aged 13 and his father is a labourer in a saw mill. Thomas started working for the MR on 4 January 1912 on his 14th birthday. He was taken on as a messenger in the office at St Pancras Goods Yard at 7 shillings (35p) a week. This weekly wage had risen to 10s. (50p) by January 1913 and to 22s. (£1.10) by January 1918. The job was being held open for him as he had enlisted. He joined the 1/24th (County of London) Battalion (The Queens) of the London Regiment as a Private (No.1893). He disembarked in France on 16 March 1915 and served there until 19 September 1916. While there his father died in December 1915. He was next at the Front from 10 May 1917, when he was a Corporal in the same Battalion (No.720355). His elder brother Albert Edward Hogg was drowned on 31 January 1918, when Submarine K4 on which he was serving was accidentally rammed by HMS Fearless in the so-called Battle of May Island. While on leave in summer of 1918 Thomas married Lilian E Redford in Hackney. A few months later, he was killed in action in the Battle of Courtrai on 14 October 1918. His widow was paid a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

JOHN SPENCER INGRAM (1894-1915)

Born on 11 April 1894 Islington to James Ingram and his wife Susan (née Wallace) in spring 1894. He had three older brothers and an older sister when he was is shown on the 1901 census with his parents in two rooms at 31 Story St, Islington. His father was a hawker, but by 1911 was working in a coal shop. The family of ten are living in four rooms at 97 Bemerton Street, Islington. John Spencer like his younger brother William are teenage vanguards employed by the MR. After leaving school aged 14 he joined the MR on 8 March 1909 at 17 shillings (85p) a week. On his 20th birthday in 1914 he received a pay rise, earning £1 2s (£1.10). This was no doubt very helpful to the family as his father James had died on 22 Sep 1913. His mother who was illiterate was listed as his next of kin in September 1914 when soon after the war began he signed up. She was then at 44 Twyford Street, King's Cross. John Spencer enlisted in London on 1 Sep 1914. He joined the 7th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade as Private B/2341. His height was 5ft 7 ins, he had good physical development and perfect vision. While training he was absent without leave for New Year's Eve 1914 for which he lost a week's pay. John Spencer embarked 19 May 1915 as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 30 July 1915 at the Battle of Hooge, where the Germans put their new weapon, the flammenwerfer, or flamethrower, to devastating use against the Allies. He was commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres. His mother was living with five of his siblings at 49 Freeling Street, Caledonian Road in March 1919 when his medals were sent to her.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1894 Qtr 2; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920; Find A Grave Index.

GEORGE FREDERICK INSALL (1898-1918)

He was born on 26 March 1898 at 4 West Street, Lower Edmonton to Charles Insall, a cabinet maker from Lancashire and his wife Annie Louisa Crabtree. He was one of 12 children. In 1911 the family was at 67 West Street and George was still at school aged 13. On leaving school he started working on the railways on 6 May 1912. He was employed by MR as a vanguard earning just 9 shillings (45p) a week, but this was raised in 1913 to 10 shillings (50p) when he worked as a carman in its Goods Yard. He first joined up as Private in the Norfolk Regt (no. 32360) but later enlisted in January 1917, at Mill Hill, as a Private in the 1/6th Battalion of the Welsh Regt (No.55623) and was shortly afterwards posted overseas. During his service on the Western Front he took part in fighting at Arras and died of his wounds at the Battle of Ypres on 8 Jan 1918, aged 19. He was buried in Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge, Ypres, Belgium.

Sources 1901 Census; 1911 Census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index Qtr 2 1898; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; England, The National Roll of the Great War, 1914-1918; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Find A Grave Index.

JOSEPH GEORGE JENNINGS (1898-1916)

He was born on 7 June 1898 in a two-roomed flat in 26 Beaconsfield Buildings, just off what is now York Way, King's Cross, the son of Joseph Jennings and his wife (Elizabeth) Rose. He was baptised on 5 July at St Mary's, Islington. His father Joseph was a coal porter for the Great Northern Railway at King's Cross so he could easily walk to work. The family was at 19M Beaconsfield Buildings in 1901. These austere blocks of flats had been erected in 1879 by the Victoria Dwellings Association, of which Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, was the patron. They became known locally as The Crumbles and were pulled down in 1970. By 1911 the family of seven were living in two rooms at near-by 107 Bemerton Street, Islington. JG is listed as a scholar, aged 13. Upon leaving school, on 13 June 1912 he joined the MR and became a van guard paid 10 shillings (50p) a week. The family was back at Beaconsfield Buildings – now in flat 17G. A few weeks into the war, JG joined the 15th Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps as a rifleman (No. R6718) on 10 November 1914 at Winchester. His physical development was described as good. He was 5ft 7ins tall. JG was posted 9 days later. During training in March and again in July 1915 he was punished for insolence to a non-commissioned officer (he was only a teenager). He joined the British Expeditionary Force on 3 Aug 1915. He was on active duty apart from a short spell in January 1916 when he was suffering from influenza. He was killed in action on the Somme on the Western Front on 18 August 1916, aged

18. He was buried at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France. His family moved to 23G Beaconsfield Buildings after his death. In 1920 his father was awarded a commemorative scroll.

Sources London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; 1901 census; 1911 census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records; Soldiers Died In The Great War; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt Of Honour

EDWARD PHILIP KERSLAKE (1891-1916)

Edward Philip Kerslake was the first child of Edward Thomas Kerslake, book binder and his wife Jessie Chafe. He was born on 22 March 1891 in Islington, where his young parents lived in two rooms at 98 Packington Street. By 1901 the family had moved into 3 rooms in 19 Dame St, Islington, with one sister Elsie Amelia aged 7, but moved again to a house in Hoxton, 14 Napier Street, where the father carried on his bookbinding work and Elsie went to the Elementary School in the street. Here the small family stayed for several years. In 1911 Edward Philip (EP) was living there aged 20. He was a clerk with the MR. His sister Elsie, aged 17, was a clerk and typist. EP remained living with his parents until the outbreak of war. Whilst on leave from the army in 1915 he was registered to vote as a householder, paying rent to his father for a furnished front room on the first floor of 14 Napier Street. On 6 Sep 1914 EP had enlisted at Canterbury aged 23 years and 166 days, joining the 8th (Service) Battalion of the East Kent Regt (The Buffs). This had been raised as part of Lord Kitchener's Third New Army and began to assemble in Shoreham, but suffered from a lack of equipment and trained officers and NCOs to train the volunteers. EP was promoted to Corporal just before Christmas 1914 (23 Dec). In June 1915 they moved to Aldershot for final training before leaving in August for France. He had a sallow complexion, with brown hair and blue eyes and was quite tall for the time – nearly 5 ft 11 ins. In army records his character was described as exemplary. EP was killed in action at Delville Wood on 3 September 1916, on the last day of the battle. He was buried at the Thiepval Cemetery in France. His father who had moved to Bayswater was given a commemorative scroll and plaque, although he was still chasing the latter in 1921.

Sources 1891 Census; 1901 Census; 1911 Census; Birth Registrations 1891; Electoral Registers; All British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920; Soldiers died in the Great War; British Army Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-20; UK WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls; UK Commonwealth War Graves; UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects.

ROBERT ARTHUR KIRBY (1888-1917)

Born 18 September 1888 at 78 Evington Street, Leicester to Edward Kirby and his wife Emma Mary de Board. He was baptised on 25 November 1888 at St Peter's Church, Leicester. In 1891, aged 2 he is with his parents and three other siblings in the same house. His father is an engine fitter. By 1902 the family had moved to Saint Albans. On the 1911 census Robert is living with his parents and younger brother Harold at 31 Liverpool Road in the city. Both Robert and his father work for the MR; his father is now a locomotive foreman. Robert started working for the MR on 4 March 1903 as a Ledger clerk 3rd Class at St Pancras. He was first paid £20 per annum but his salary increased regularly; at the start of 1913 he was earning £90 p.a. He enlisted and was posted as Lance/Sergeant (No.3/1242) in the 3rd Battalion of the East Kent Regiment. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the 11th Company of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) on 25 February 1917 and disembarked in France on 9 April 1917. He was killed in action on 11 May 1917 at the Battle of Bullecourt. Robert is commemorated on the Arras Memorial in Arras, France. In his will Robert left just over £109 to his father.

Sources 1891 census; 1911 census; Leicestershire Baptisms; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966;

FREDERICK HERBERT KIRKLAND (1882-1917)

Frederick was born in Bow on 22 September 1882 to Thomas Robert Kirkland, a clerk and his wife Anne Catharine. When he was about four the family moved to Nine Elms Yard, Vauxhall, which his father managed for Pickford & Company. The family of eight is there on the 1891 census. The family moved back to east London and aged 11 Frederick was baptised at All Hallows Church, Poplar on June 12 1894. Their address was 10 Grey Street. By 1901 they had moved again, this time across the River Lea, to 9 Harcourt Road, Plaistow, where Frederick's father (wrongly shown as Frank) was now a railway clerk and Frederick a railway porter. He had joined the Midland Railway on 18 Sep 1899

as a loader in the Outwards Shed at the Somers Town Goods Yard. His pay at age 16 was £1 2s (£1.10) a week, rising to £1 5s (£1.25) by 1912. On 12 April 1903 Frederick was living at 50 Swaton Road, Bromley-by-Bow when he married Elizabeth Baker from the same street. He is described as a clerk. The marriage took place at All Hallows Church. By 1911 they had moved to 26 Derby Buildings, King's Cross Road where Frederick could walk to work. They had had three children but only one, a son also called Frederick, born in Bow in 1906, had survived infancy. One month into the war Frederick enlisted "aged 30" (he was nearly 32) as a Private in 13th Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment (No. G/4610) at London on 9 September 1914. He was 5ft 5 ins tall. Made Lance Corporal on 25 June 1915, he disembarked in France on 1 Sep 1915. He became an acting sergeant on 2 April 1916, and was posted as a corporal on 20 May 1917. Died of his wounds on Western Front on 27 Jul 1917. A war gratuity of £16 and 10 shillings was paid to his widow Elizabeth in November 1919.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

ANTHONY ERNEST LAVELLY (1894-1916)

Anthony Ernest (known by either name) was born on 19 July 1894 in St Giles at 54 Compton Street. His parents were Anthony Ernest Lavelly and his wife Ellen, known as Nellie. He was baptised on 10 January 1917 along with a younger sister Helena. The curate wrote their surname as 'Loveley'. His father's actual name at birth in Milan, Italy in April 1869 was Antonio Enos Lavelli. He became a cook. In 1901 aged six Anthony was living with his mother and two siblings at 15 Howard Road, Broadstairs, Kent, where his youngest sister had been born a few months before. His father joined the Royal Navy as a chef and served for some months in 1904-05. His mother died aged 34 in 1906 and the following year his father married Hetty Rachel Brough in Marylebone. Anthony and his siblings then went to stay with Hetty's widowed mother, Mary Ann Brough in Newcastle, at 47 Elswick Road. They appear on the 1911 census there, with Anthony a butcher's assistant, aged 16. The family rejoined their father in Marylebone and Anthony joined the MR's Hotels Division as a cook. After war broke out he enlisted at St Pancras and was posted as a Private (No.122670) in the Duke of Cornwall's Light infantry. He transferred to the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment as a Private (No.11870). He disembarked on 5 October 1915 in the Balkans to join the fighting at Gallipoli. The Regiment was moved to France in March 1916. At some point Anthony was made Lance/Corporal. He died on the Somme on 9 August 1916. He was buried at the Potijze Burial Ground Cemetery, Belgium. A war gratuity was paid to his father in 1919.

Sources Census 1901; Census 1911; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939; England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1907 Qtr 2; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army, Railwaymen Died In The Great War; Soldiers Died In The Great War; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

THOMAS HENRY LINEY (1895-1917)

Born 27 Feb 1895 to James Liney and his wife Caroline Amelia Nye. They lived at 73 Aldenham Street, Somers Town and Thomas's father was a labourer and house painter. Thomas was baptised at St Pancras Old Church on 25 March 1895. In 1901 the family is still living at the same address. Thomas has six siblings and they live in two rooms. His mother died in 1910. The 1911 census records that his parents had had 13 children in all, four of whom died in infancy. He was living in two rooms at 57 Stibbington Street, Somers Town with his father, a sister and two other brothers, both of whom like him were employed as railway van guards. Thomas joined the MR as a van shunter at St Pancras on 15 September 1909. He was paid 18 shillings (90p) a week. He moved to Edmonton before enlisting in the 5th Battalion of Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment as a Private (No.10994). He disembarked in France on 30 May 1915. Thomas was killed in action on 10 May 1917 during the Battle of Arras. He was buried in the Canadian Cemetery No. 2, Neuville-Saint Vaast, France. His father received a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Find A Grave Index; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

ALBERT ERNEST LISK (1898-1918)

Albert Ernest Lisk was born on 8 July 1898 at 61 Muriel Street, Pentonville, the son of Albert Ernest Lisk and Jane Page, who had him baptised at the local church of St Silas three weeks later. His father born in 1873 had grown up Little Clarendon Street, Somers Town, a by-way once notorious for its poverty. Albert Ernest Senior moved to the Islington area and got work as a labourer on the railways. By 1911 he was employed as a 'patent brakesman' for the MR. As a young boy Albert Ernest Junior lived at 27 Dennis Street, Islington with his family who were at 17 Rodney St, Pentonville from 1909 until 1912. On the 1911 census AE then aged 12 is listed as a newsboy, presumably a job he did part-time as he is also listed as a scholar. About 1913 the family moved out to Walthamstow to a house at 27, Colville Road, Higham Hill. AE then started work for MR and joined the Kentish Town branch of the National Union of Railwaymen on 30 September 1915. He was employed by the MR as a hydraulic cleaner. Hydraulic power was very important to the company, particularly in its good yards. Somers Town Goods Yard was built on two levels with goods arriving on the upper level via railway bridges (now gone), built across St Pancras Way, and lowered by hydraulic lifts to the ground floor for loading on to road vehicles. AE enlisted at Stratford, East London as a Private (No. 253915) in the 3rd (City of London) Battalion of the London Regt (Royal Fusiliers). He died of his wounds on the Western Front on 22 May 1918, aged 19. He was buried at Tilloy British Cemetery, Tilloy-Les-Mofflaines.

Sources 1901 Census; 1911 Census; London, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906; Electoral Registers; Trade Union membership registers; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919; Find A Grave Index.

THOMAS EDWIN MARTIN (1895-1916)

Born St Pancras 1895 to Charles James and Caroline Martin. In 1901 the family of ten were at 52 Archer St Camden Town. The father was a bricklayer. In 1911 he was described as a builder and the family of 11 plus 3 boarders lived in a larger house at No.71 St Paul's Road, St Pancras (now Agar Grove). Thomas, aged 16, was described as a railway messenger. Upon leaving school aged 14 he joined the MR on 30 July 1909. He worked in the Goods Manager's Office, St Pancras as an office porter earning 7s (35p) a week at first, rising to 12s (60p) a week by 1912, and over a pound by after war broke out. He enlisted a few weeks into the war at St Pancras on 7 Sep 1914, aged 19 years 3 months. He was posted as a Private (No. G/1198) in the 7th (Service) Battalion of The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was 5ft 7 ins tall. Thomas was killed in action on 18 November 1916, the last day of the Battle of the Somme. The family was still living at No.71 St Paul's Road, St Pancras (now Agar Grove) in June 1919, when his parents and six brothers and two sisters were still alive.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census England & Wales Births 1895 Qtr 3; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records 1914-20; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War.

THOMAS WILLIAM MOY (1895-1917)

Born on 12 March 1895 in Whitechapel, the son of Charles Moy and his wife Sarah Ann Willoughby. He was baptised on 3 April 1895 at St James Church, Curtain Road, Shoreditch. The family was living at 3 Blossom Street and his father was a porter. By 1900 the family was at 21 Colva Street, St Pancras. Here his father died on 12 October that year. By 1911 he was living with his widowed mother Sarah and two older siblings in two rooms above a shop at 81 Andover Road, Tollington Park. Aged 16 he was a van boy for the MR. He joined their service on 18 October 1909, on leaving school. He was later promoted to van guard in the Company's goods yard. He enlisted as a Private in 11th Hussars (No.11982). He then transferred again as a Private (No. 32905) in the 16th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He died of his wounds on the Western Front on 9 October 1917, aged 22. He was buried at the Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, France. His mother, who had moved to 71, Cornwallis Road, Upper Holloway, received a war gratuity for him.

Sources 1911 census; England and Wales Birth Index Qtr 2 1895; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, Electoral Registers, 1832-1965; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Soldiers died in the Great War; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; Find A Grave Index.

EDWARD JAMES NASH (1881-1917)

Born in Shepherds Bush, Middlesex in April 1881 to Thomas Alfred Nash and his wife, Mary Matilda Crouch. On the 1881 census he is a new born baby, the youngest of their three sons. His father is a plumber and the family is living at 30 Southbrook Street, Shepherds Bush. By 1891 the family had expanded to seven and was living at 224 Hornsey Road, Highbury. Edward was a 10-year-old schoolboy and his father was a house decorator. His mother died two years later, aged 43 and in 1898 his father spent two spells in the local workhouse. In 1901 Edward was staying at 4 Castle Terrace, Hadleigh, Essex. He gave his occupation as paper hanger. The house was a dormitory to a hospital, part of a large Salvation Army colony, founded ten years before. Its aim was to rescue young boys and men from poverty and squalor in London and train them in agriculture, basic building trades or household work and then find them jobs in Britain or abroad. All colonists were required to attend Sunday meetings in the Citadel, and were not allowed to drink alcohol, smoke or swear. After rehabilitation (at least six months), colonists were encouraged to return to their families, or go abroad. We don't know how long Edward was at Hadleigh but he returned to London and joined the MR as a porter at St Pancras. In 1905 his father, working once more as a decorator, married again. His second bride was Miss Hannah Ogden, who lived at 80 Gibson Gardens, Stoke Newington, blocks of artisans' dwellings. His father was living at No.100, where the couple made their home and was living in 1911. Edward's own marital home was to be at No.67. By the time of the 1911 census he had joined the 1st Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment as a Corporal (No.6964) and was in Barracks at Kempston, Bedford. He returned to the MR because when he married he described himself as a railwayman. The marriage took place on 5 October 1912 at West Hackney Parish Church, where he married Miss Rosina Nellie Clayton. They were both aged 31. He stated he was living at 29 Dorset Street, Islington but they moved to Stoke Newington. In 1914 Edward was working as a parcel porter for the MR. In July he joined the Kentish Town Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen. He enlisted again on 10 September 1914. During the war he was made a sergeant and transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers (No. 40586). He was killed in action on 9 October 1917 during the Battle of Poelcappelle. Edward was buried at the Cement House Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle near Ypres. A war gratuity was paid to his widow at the end of 1919.

Sources 1881 census; 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1881 Qtr 2; London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; London, England, Workhouse Admission and Discharge Records, 1764-1930; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Find A Grave Index; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

ERNEST CORMACK NORMAN (1882-1918)

Born 28 April 1882 In Newington to Police Inspector George Norman and his wife Emily Marshall Oake. By 1891 the couple had moved out of London to 1 Oak Cottages, Milton Road in Hampton, Middlesex. Ernest is a scholar aged 8 living with his parents and two older brothers. In 1901 at 389 Ivydale Road, Nunhead aged 18 he is living with his parents and elder brother Henry, who like him is a railway clerk. His father George, aged 49, has retired from the force. He was taken on as a Clerk 3rd class (Minerals) in the office of the Goods Manager at St Pancras. Started 29 November 1897 at £65 p.a. By 1 January 1913 his annual salary from the MR had risen to £105. On August 22 1910, aged 28, he married Miss Mabel Elizabeth Gorringe at St Silas Church, Nunhead, Lewisham. They were both living at her house in the parish: They set up home initially in Forest Hill, , at 126A Kilmorie Road, where they appear together on the census in 1911. They moved to 325 Ivydale Road, Nunhead, presumably to be near to his parents, although his mother died in early 1917. Ernest enlisted at Lewisham and was posted as a rifleman R/40260 in the 4th Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was killed in action on 3 October 1918 on the Western Front. He was buried at Guizancourt Farm Cemetery at Gouy, Picardy in France. Ernest left just under £160 to his widow, which she received at the end of July 1919, shortly after she had been given a war gratuity for him.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1882 Qtr 2; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; Find A Grave Index; England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations); UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

SIDNEY WILLIAM OSBORNE (1882-1917)

Born 25 May 1882 in Marylebone to James Osborne and his wife Susannah. His father was a woodchopper. On the 1891 census the family of seven are living in two rooms at

1 Charlotte Place, Pentonville. Sidney is at school. Ten years later on the 1901 census the family had moved to three rooms at 9 Rodney Street, Pentonville. His father aged 62 was a laundryman and both Sidney and his older brother Arthur had jobs as railway ticket printers. Shortly afterwards on 22 April 1901 Sidney started working for the MR as a porter loader at the Somers Town Goods Yard. His initial pay was 18 shillings (90p) a week. By the end of 1913 he was earning £1 5s (£1.25) a week. He joined the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants on 21 October 1906. After his parents died Sidney and three of his unmarried siblings took up residence at 10A Stonefield Street, Barnsbury. They are there on the 1911 census. He enlisted at Holloway in the London Regiment. He was posted as a Private (No.254063) in the 3rd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers). He arrived on the Western Front on 4 October 1917, but was killed in action just three weeks later, on 26 October. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial at Zonnebeke near Ypres, Belgium. A war gratuity was paid to his sister Alice in 1919.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1882 Qtr 2; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; Find A Grave Index.

EDWARD GEORGE PAISLEY (1888-1916)

Born on 7 April 1888, son of Edward George Paisley and his wife Emma in Camberwell. By 1891 they had moved to 7 Credon Road, Rotherhithe, where the family of five is living in two rooms. His father is a linendraper's packer. He started his education at Galley Wall Road School, Bermondsey on 28 August 1893. He was then living at 88 Camilla Road nearby. In 1901 his parents were living with five of their children at 10 Layard Road, Bermondsey. Edward, aged 12, was visiting the household next door on the day of the census. By 1911 Edward had left home and was living as a boarder at 147 St James's Road, Bermondsey. He stated that he was a wine merchant's clerk. He married Miss Daisy Ethel Maud Smitten in St Bartholomew's Church, Grays Inn Road on 23 March 1913. He describes his occupation as stocktaker. They set up home together at 140, St James's Road, Bermondsey. By 1914 he had become a porter for the MR at St Pancras Station. In June he joined the Kentish Town Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen. Edward enlisted at Rotherhithe and became a colour sergeant (No.12267) in the 12th Battalion (Bermondsey) of the East Surrey Regiment. He was made the company quartermaster sergeant (CQMS), the non-commissioned officer in a company who is in charge of supplies. The CQMS also serves as the deputy to the company sergeant major and is the second most senior NCO in the company. Edward died on Christmas Day 1916, aged 28; it is not clear how. The war diary for the 12th Battalion states "the day was chiefly spent in getting up Xmas dinner for the men, which took place at 2 o c. There was no alarm and the day passed quietly". He was buried at Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Belgium. A war gratuity was paid to his widow in 1920.

Sources London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

HENRY WILLIAM PEEL (1882-1916)

Born 17 March 1882 in Kentish Town to George H Peel and his wife Kate. His father was a railway porter. On the 1891 census Henry is living with his parents and three siblings at 15 Dalby Street, Kentish Town. The family of six are living in two rooms. Ten years later the family is still at Dalby Street but has expanded to ten people. Henry is aged 18 and working for the MR. The year before, in April 1900, he started as a checker in the Inwards Goods Shed at St Pancras. He was paid 18 shillings (90p) a week rising to £1 8s. (£1.40) in 1912. In May 1907 he joined the Kentish Town branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. Henry married Miss Louis Frances Bean on 18 May 1902 at Holy Trinity Church, Haverstock Hill. He claimed to be 21 although he was really a year younger. They were both living at 9 Powlett Place, off Harmood Street, Kentish Town. On the 1911 census he is living with his wife and three children (two daughters and a son) at 51 Hartland Road, Kentish Town. He enlisted and was posted as a Private (No. SR/1457) in the 9th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). He disembarked in France on 1 June 1915. He was killed in action on 7 July 1916 (missing, presumed dead) during the Battle of the Somme. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in Picardy, France. A war gratuity was paid to his widow in 1919. She had remarried at the end of 1917.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; Find A Grave Index.

ALBERT CHARLES POOLE (1890-1918)

Born in Kentish Town on 2 November 1890 to Albert John Poole and his wife Elizabeth Ann Woodman. He was five months old on the 1891 census, the only child of railway signalman Albert Poole, originally from Chippenham Wiltshire, and his wife Elizabeth. The family lived in two rooms at 5 Spencer Road, Kentish Town (now Spencer Rise, Dartmouth Park). The family was at 25 Spencer Road by the time that Albert went to Burghley Road School and they were there on the 1901 census. Albert was taken on by MR as a train recorder at the coaching station at Finchley on 19 April 1909. His starting pay was 8 shillings (40p) a week but this rose to 12s. (60p) at the end of 1907. He joined the Kentish Town Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in 1912, when he was 21. In 1911 Albert was living with his parents and two younger brothers at 25 Spencer Road. He is listed as a railway porter. His parents had had nine children but five had died young. He enlisted at St Pancras as a Private (No.12045) in the 5th Battalion of the Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment. He disembarked in France on 25 July 1915. He was promoted Corporal in the 6th Battalion. Killed in action on the Western Front on 5 April 1918, Albert is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial in France.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1890 Qtr 3; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Soldiers Died In The Great War; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920.

WILLIAM PRATT (1887-1918)

William Pratt born on 21 September 1887 to Owen Francis Pratt (Frank) and his wife Rosina (Rose) Wilson. His father Frank then worked as a fireman on the railways, having come as a young man to Kentish Town from his native Bedfordshire. In 1891 with his parents and five siblings in 3 rooms at 5 Piercefield Street, Kentish Town. His father is now a general labourer. On the 1901 census the family has expanded to ten occupying four rooms at the same address. William is a 13-year-old, his older brother Alfred is working as a railway vanguard. William also became a vanguard at St Pancras goods yard at 10 shillings (50p) a week on Sep 27 1901. He was promoted on 20 February 1903. Later that year on 1 September he signed up for six years as a militia man for the County of London in the East Surrey Regiment. His medical examination revealed that he was of slim build, 5ft 4 ins tall and had several tattoos on his forearms. He deserted two days later before final approval but rejoined on 9 September, being given 49 days' drill as punishment. He claimed he was 18 but was discharged shortly afterwards when they discovered he was barely 16. Come 1911 and the family had remained at 5 Piercefield Street. William is now the oldest of four children living with his parents. He is shown as 23 and a builders' labourer, although he was later working for the MR as a stocktaker in the goods yard. His father died aged 61 in March 1915, leaving £320 to Rose. William himself found rooms in Hampstead Road, St Pancras and enlisted as rifleman in the 2nd Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was Private No.57614. He served on the Western Front but was killed in action in France on 4 November 1918, just a week before the Armistice. He was buried in Le Rejet de Beaulieu Communal Cemetery (Nord France).

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records; Soldiers Died in the Great War; National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations); England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915

WILLIAM PRATT (1892-1918) – NO OBVIOUS CONNECTION TO MR FOUND

William was born on 26 January 1892 at 6 Parkfield Road, Willesden, Middlesex, to Richard F Pratt. A carman, and his wife Caroline. He was baptised as William Edward on 3 July that year at St John the Baptist Church, Greenhill. On the 1901 census the family of eight are living in three rooms at the same house in Willesden. William is a scholar while Richard was a bricklayer's labourer and Caroline took in laundry. By 1911

William's father had died and at 19 William is the eldest of six children living with his widowed mother. He is working at a 'dry plate factory'. He signed up on 21 October 1915 and was posted to 11th/14th (Service) Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps – rifleman (No.R/15927). His occupation was 'Collector'. Address 6 Parkfield Road, Willesden.

5 ft 4 ins and described as having good physical development. He spent most of September 1916 in the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. On discharge it was decided he was unfit for duty but could be assigned to the command depot. He was posted to No.1 Depot of the British Expeditionary Force on 23 January 1917. He was recorded as missing and 'accepted as dead' on 23 March 1918. In 1919 his mother Caroline was paid a war gratuity for him and in 1920, still living at 6 Parkfield Rd, Willesden (with five of his surviving siblings) she received his commemorative scroll and the following year his war medals.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; British Army Service Records 1914-20; Soldiers Died in the Great War;

GEORGE ALBERT PRIDDLE (1898-1917)

George was born in April 1898 to William Priddle and his wife Martha Frith at No.9A Beaconsfield Buildings off what is now York Way, north of King's Cross. He was baptised on 12 May at St Michael, Islington. His father, originally from Devon, was an iron fitter. George and his older brother William were with their parents at 16C Beaconsfield Buildings. In 1903 his younger sister Bessie was born but by the time of the 1911 census his father had died and the three siblings were living with their widowed mother Martha, who is listed as a cattle food packer. His brother William aged 15 had started as a vanguard on the railway. George aged 12 was still at school. After leaving school George joined the MR. His occupation was number taker. His job was to stand at junctions noting the movements of every wagon and train carriage and reporting back to the Railway Clearing House in London, so that the clerks could balance train companies' competing claims. Rather like a paid trainspotter. In 1915 he joined the St Pancras branch of the National Union of Railway men. He was conscripted in late 1916 and was assigned as a rifleman (No. 71427) to the 110th Battalion of the newly formed Training Reserve. He was stationed at Wimbledon before being posted as a rifleman (No.42428) in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles. He was killed in action on 31 July 1917 during the British offensive on the opening day of the Battle of Passchendaele. George's name is inscribed on the Menin Gates at Ypres, Belgium. His mother received a war gratuity for her son in 1920, but had to wait until 1921 for his medals.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

HENRY RACKLIFF (1897-1917)

He was born 18 June 1897 to Raymond Rackliff and his wife Annie (Ann Jane). He was their eldest child. His father was a confectioner. In 1901 the family was living at 29 Queen's Cottages, Islington. He started at Popham Road School, Islington aged 4 on 10 March 1902. He was then living at 42 Queen's Cottages. On the 1911 census the family is living in two rooms at 15 Church Street. Henry is still at school, and has three younger siblings. Three other children had been born to his parents but had died. His father was now a general labourer. On 23 April 1912 aged 14 he joined the MR as a vanguard at St Pancras Goods Yard at 12 shillings (60p) a week. His wages rose each year on his birthday – by 1917 he was earning 22 shillings (£1.10). He joined the 18th Battalion of the London Regiment as a Private (No.594727) but transferred to the 8th (City of London) Battalion (Post Office Rifles) as a rifleman (No.385141). He was sent to the Western Front on 20 June 1917. Henry was killed in action on 25 September 1917 in a German counter-attack during the Third Battle of Ypres. A war gratuity was paid to his mother in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

GEORGE WILLIAM RANDALL (1894-1917)

Born 3 Nov 1894 in Leytonstone, Essex to John W Randall and his wife Augusta. His father was a sealskin dresser. On the 1901 census he is living with his parents and four siblings at 63 Acacia Road, Leytonstone. Ten years later they were in the same district at 4 Howard Road and his father had become an insurance agent. His parents had had ten children in all but three had died. George was aged 16 and a railway vanguard for the MR at Leytonstone Station. He had joined the MR two years earlier at the start of 1909. On 30 October 1911 he was transferred to the St Pancras Goods Yard as a capstan youth. As a capstan man, aged 21, he joined the Kentish Town branch of the National Union

of Railwaymen in 1916. George joined the forces with permission from the MR on 3 May 1917, when aged 22. He became a Private (No.324352) in 1/6th (City of London) Battalion of the London Regiment. Sent to the Western Front, he was pronounced missing presumed dead at Cambrai on 30 November 1917. He is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval. His father received a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index 1894 Qtr 4;UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt Of Honour.

HENRY EWART RAWLINGS (1885-1915)

He was born to George William Rawlings and his wife Sarah Morant in Kentish Town at the end of 1885. His father was a railway fireman, later an engine driver. He was baptised along with three siblings at St Martin's Church, Kentish Town on 14 July 1886. On the 1891 the family of seven plus one lodger had moved north to 39 Gratton Terrace, Edgware Road, Cricklewood. Henry was at school. He was baptised again with three other siblings at St Gabriel's Church on 28 May 1893. Henry's father died aged 40 at the end of 1896. On the 1901 census Henry is aged 15 and living with his widowed mother at 45 Gratton Terrace, Edgware Road, Cricklewood. He is a railway clerk and all of his three brothers work on the railways in various jobs. He joined the MR as a parcels clerk at St Pancras on 18 April 1901 on a salary of £25 per annum. This rose year on year until by 1914, when he was a Counter Clerk in the 'Outs' Department, he was on £110 per annum. On the 1911 census he was living with two of his brothers with his mother at 106 Chetwynd Rd, Highgate. There is a young lodger in the household. In summer 1911 Henry married Beatrice Miriam Taylor in St Pancras District. They set up home in Hampstead. Henry joined the 8th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment at St Albans. He became a Sergeant (No.16153). He was in France from late August 1915, but died of his wounds on the Western Front on 17 December 1915. He was buried at Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium. A war gratuity was paid to his widow Miriam in 1920.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration 1886 Qtr 4; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; Soldiers Died in The Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt Of Honour.

WILLIAM RICHARD SAGE (1889-1917)

William Richard Sage was one of six children of Henry Richard Sage and his wife Anna Maria Reeves. Born at 63, Bury Road, Wood Green he was baptised at St Martin's Church, Noel Park, Wood Green on 17 November 1889. In 1891 the family was still living in Bury Road. His father was a publican but gave up the profession to become Secretary to a weighing machine company. In 1901 the family were living at 16, Burghley Rd, Hornsey and by 1911 had moved further out to Palmers Green. By then William was aged 21, single and recorded as a railway clerk. His other three siblings still living with their parents were all involved in office work. He joined the 10th Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regt as a Private (no. G/22831). He was killed in action on 6 Aug 1917 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium.

Sources 1891 Census; 1901 Census; 1911 Census; Birth Registrations 1889; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; Soldiers died in the Great War; British Army Medal Rolls Index Cards 191420; UK WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls; UK Commonwealth War Graves; UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects;

GEORGE THOMAS SKIDMORE (1896-1916)

Born 7 December 1896 in St Pancras to William John Skidmore and his wife Catherine (Kate). His father was a coal porter. In 1900 the family of six was living in two rooms at 2 Alpha Buildings, off Pentonville Road. George had three older siblings. The family had moved to 2 Penton Grove, Islington by August 1904 when George started at White Lion Street School. He stayed there until December 1908. He was described as 'dull'. On the 1911 census the family of five is living in 2 rooms at 149 Bemerton Street, Caledonian Road, Islington. George is aged 14 and out of work. His father is still working as a coal porter but died later that year. George joined the MR as a vanguard at St Pancras Goods Yard on 9 August 1911. He was first paid 10 shillings (50p) a week, rising to 12s. (60p) in December 1912. On April 1913 he joined the Kentish Town Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen. He enlisted at Hampstead on 1 September 1914 and was posted as a Private (No. G/2578) in the 12th Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment. He stated he was 19 (he was actually 17) and his medical examination showed him to have a fair physical development; he was 5ft 5 ins tall. George was

sent to Colchester for training. Here his conduct sheet shows that he was often in trouble for being absent without leave. He received 14 days' detention for this in January 1915. He set off for France on 25 July 1915. He was appointed an (unpaid) Lance Corporal on 10 July 1916 but was wounded in action five days later and spent a month in hospital. He rejoined his battalion at the start of September but was killed in action ('Place Not Stated') later in the month, on 26 September 1916. In 1917 his mother Mrs Catherine Skidmore, then living at 123 Bemerton Street, Caledonian Road, received a separation allowance for her son

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1897 Qtr 1; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War.

THOMAS GEORGE SMITH (1894-1915)

He was born in Duddington, Northamptonshire in September 1894 to George and Mary Smith. His father was a railway carman, who before his marriage had moved to Kentish Town, London. His mother was also from Duddington and she gave birth to her children there but by 1899 the family were living permanently at 28 Grafton Road, Kentish Town. Here Thomas and his younger sister and brother grew up. By 1911 Thomas's father had died and aged 16 he was living with his widowed mother at the family home. He was described as a railway servant. He had started work for the MR at St Pancras Goods Yard as a delivery sheet registrar on 14 September 1908. When he was 17 he decided to enlist in 1/19th Battalion of London Regt as a Private (No.1377), on 21 February 1912 for a period of 4 years, agreeing to be sent abroad if needed. This was not required until World War One began. He was single, 5ft 4 ins tall and said to be of good physical development. He continued working at St Pancras and joined the Kentish Town Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen in 1913 when aged 18. He was on active service as part of the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front from 10 March 1915 to 25 September 1915, when he was gassed at the start of the Battle of Loos. He spent two days in hospital before returning to his Regiment. On 18 October 1915 was wounded in action on the last day of the battle, in his left shoulder and right leg, and died of his wounds in the casualty clearing station three days later. He had drawn up a short will witnessed by a fellow soldier that all his effects and any money due should go to his mother.

Sources 1891 census; 1901 census; 1911 census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; British Army Service Records; Soldiers Died In The Great War

WALTER SMITH (1895-1915)

Born 30 December 1895 in Croydon to Alice Webster, who was born in Barnsbury in 1872. Alice married Robert Roe Smith in 1902. His step-father, whose surname he was given, was a warehouseman in a firm of photographic dealers. On the 1911 census Walter is living with them and his only sibling, half-sister Dorothy born in 1909, in two rooms at 30 Blurton Road, Lower Clapton. Walter, aged 15, is a shop boy in a lamp warehouse. He started work for the MR at Somers Town Goods Yard on 17 April 1912 as a messenger, initially at 10 shillings (50p) a week, but rising to 16s. (80p) on his eighteenth birthday. A few weeks before that, on 10 December 1913, he had enlisted at Camden Town in the 19th Battalion of the London Regiment. He was living with his family at 15 Tresham Avenue, Lower Clapton. His physical development was described as fair; he had normal vision and was 5ft 5ins tall. He was 'embodied' or called up at the start of the war as a Private (No.1835). He was in training from 5 August 1914 until 8 March 1915 and then was part of the British Expeditionary Force in France. On 8 July 1915 he was suffering from deafness at Noeux-les-Mines in the Pas-de-Calais. He was fatally wounded in his leg and groin on 29 October 1915 and died the next day, aged 19. Walter was buried at the Philosophe British Cemetery at Mazingarbe, just south of La Basse. His mother was sent his medals in 1919. She had by then moved to Victoria Cottage, 151 Northwold Road, Lower Clapton.

Sources 1911 census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; British Army Service Records; Find A Grave.

GEORGE STAPLES (1880-1918)

Born to Emma Alfreda Staples on 3 May 1880 at 41 Kenton Street, St Pancras. He was baptised as George Sewell Staples on 16 May at St Marylebone Parish Church. His father seems to have been John Sewell by whom his mother had at least three children, but George did not often use his middle name and in later life claimed to have been born three

years earlier, in May 1877. On the 1881 census he is living with his brother John and his mother, who is a military embroideress, at 423, Edgware Road, Marylebone. They have a 19 year-old general servant, Jane Page, from Ireland. When he was five he attended Moberley (formerly Harrow Road) School but by 1891 the family had moved to 91 Judd Street, opposite St Pancras Station. George is then aged 10 and living with two siblings and his mother, who is still a military embroideress, but describing herself as widowed, and calling herself Kate. (John Sewell died in 1888.) Soon afterwards she married an Irishman, Edward Kirkham. His daughter Elizabeth married George's brother John in May 1895. On the 1901 Edward is living with George's mother at 91 Judd Street, a retired dairyman, but George is elsewhere. Around this time he joined the MR as a labourer. In 1907 George signed up in the Special Reserve in the 16th Rifle Brigade for six years. On the 1911 census George is shown as a labourer aged 30, single and living with his widowed mother at 91 Judd Street – they have seven rooms and four lodgers. His mother continues her trade as a military embroideress. George married Miss Alice Maud Mary Bennion at the St Pancras Register Office on 5 April 1913. They lived together at 26 Euston Street (close to Euston Station). They had two children before he joined up: George William on 6 July 1913 and Stanley on 26 April 1915. Both were baptised at St Pancras Parish Church. George enlisted at Crowndale Road, St Pancras on 16 June 1915. The MR gave its permission. He stated he was aged 38 years 1 month and a platelayer for the MR. His medical examination showed that he was 5ft 8ins tall, had good physical development but defective teeth through lack of nutrition. He had an operation scar after his appendix was removed and tattoos on his left forearm. He left for the Expeditionary Force in France ten days later, disembarking at Le Havre on 28 June. He was posted as a pioneer in the Railway Transport Section of the RE (No. 123382) from 9 March 1916. His duty was as a train conductor. He got into trouble for being drunk and violent towards the military police in September that year. During 1917 he spent two months in hospital at New Court, Cheltenham with laryngitis. A few months afterwards he was again in hospital, at Frensham, Surrey, suffering from 'vertigo'. He had been having 2-3 attacks a day, suspected epileptic fits, falling to the ground and remaining unconscious for several minutes, with muscle spasms. George told the doctors the fits began in May 1917 after he had been caught between two tanks. He applied to be discharged as medically unfit but the Special Board doubted that his complaint was genuine. He was sent to the Connaught Hospital, Aldershot and given electric shock treatment and the fits ceased, although he remained subject to headaches. In April 1918 it was finally decided he was unfit for military service. He was not discharged but transferred to the Labour Corps (675 Employment Company) (No. 550618) and posted to the Labour Centre in Aldershot at RE rates of pay. The following month he was admitted with pneumonia to the Connaught Hospital where he died on 9 July 1918. He was buried in the Aldershot Military Cemetery. On 15 December 1918 his widow Alice, who had moved to a cottage in Batt's Corner, Dockenfield, Surrey when George was in Frensham Hospital, gave birth to a premature baby girl, Dorothy Alfreda Staples, who died within two hours. The following year Alice received a widows pension of 25s 5d (£1.27) a week for herself and her two boys plus a war gratuity for her late husband.

Sources 1881 census, 1891 census, 1901 census, 1911 census, London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour.

WALTER STYCHE (1893-1918)

Walter Styche was born in 1893 to George Henry Styche and his wife Lavinia Caroline Packham and baptised on 29 Oct 1893 at St Mary Magdalene Church, St Pancras. George was a coachman and the family lived in Cambridge Yard behind palatial Chester Row overlooking Regents Park. But George died in late 1899 aged just 43 and his widow became a domestic cook to support herself and her three boys. They moved to Paddington but Walter, the youngest, was sent away to the Alexandra Orphanage for Infants in Hornsey Rise, where he appears on the 1901 census. By 1911 he is back living with his mother at 2 Brook Mews North, Paddington aged 18, apparently unemployed (no occupation is listed) while his mother subsists as a charwoman. Walter became a dining car attendant for the MR but joined the 2nd Battalion of Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment as a Private (No. 12043). He entered France on 27 July 1915 and later was promoted to Lance Corporal. He was killed in action on the Somme on 25 March 1918 aged 24. He is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France and also on the memorial at the Royal Alexandra and Albert School, Gatton Park, Surrey (successor to the Alexandra Orphanage).

Sources Census 1901, Census 1911; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; Trades Union Membership Registers; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls; UK Commonwealth War Graves; UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

HENRY GEORGE TERREY (1894-1918)

Born in Islington on 8 July 1894 to Charles Alfred Terrey (or Terry) and his wife Charlotte Margaret of 3 Maygood Street, Barnsbury. He was baptised on 5 September at St Silas' Church, Pentonville. On the 1901 census aged 6 he is living with his parents and five siblings in one room at 40 Vittoria Street, Barnsbury. His father is a carman for the Vestry. Henry started as a capstan youth for the MR in St Pancras Goods Yard on 5 March 1909. His wages were 14 shillings (70p) a week rising to £1 3s. (£1.15) a week in 1915. In April 1912 he joined the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. In 1911 the Terrey family of five was at 26 Maygood Street, Barnsbury. Henry aged 17 was a vanguard with the MR. Charles Terrey (as he signed himself) was now a watchman who had had 8 children but only four survived infancy. Henry enlisted at Holborn as a Private (No.23633) in 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on 3 September 1915. He died of wounds received in action on 4 October 1918. He was buried at Tincourt New British Cemetery, Tincourt, Picardy, France. His burial records list that he was the brother of Miss J Terrey of 19 Pulteney Terrace, Barnsbury. Another sister, Emma, received a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1894 Qtr 3; London, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Britain, Trade Union membership registers; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Commonwealth War Graves, 1914-1921; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

PATRICK THYNNE (1890-1915)

He was born Patrick Joseph Thynne on 14 March 1890 in Ennystimon, County Clare, Ireland to John Thynne and his wife Catherine Lynch. In 1901 he was living with his parents and six siblings in House 13, Old Church Hall, Ennystimon. His father was a farm labourer and the census records that Patrick was a scholar who could read and write, unlike his father who could read only. He enlisted as a Private (No.3179) in the 1st Battalion of the Irish Guards at Ennis, Co. Clare. On the 1911 census he is with the Battalion at the Chelsea Barracks in London, where their duties were ceremonial. He became a railway porter with the MR, as is noted on his marriage certificate. On 31 March 1912 he married Miss Gertrude Ellen Thomas, a laundry maid, at St John's Church, Kensal Green. He gave his address as 65A Harrow Road. On 9 November 1912 their son Patrick Joseph Thynne was born. He was baptised on 2 March 1913 at St Pancras Parish Church; the couple was then living at 3 Leigh Street. Shortly before the war they moved to Brighton, where their second son Joseph John Thynne was born. As soon as war was declared Patrick rejoined the 1st Battalion of the Irish Guards, who were immediately sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. He disembarked in France on 13 August 1914, just a few days after the start of the war. He was later promoted to Lance Corporal. He took part in the bloody Battle of Mons and the First Battle of Ypres but was killed in action at the Battle of Festubert in France on 17 May 1915. A war gratuity was paid to his widow Gertrude Ellen in 1919. She was living in Brighton and remarried in 1920. She died aged 81 in 1973.

Sources 1901 census, Ireland; 1911 census; Ireland, Civil Registration Births Index; London, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Ireland, Casualties of World War I, 1914-1922; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929;

STANLEY WILLIAM TRUBY (1894-1917)

Born in late 1894 at Charlton on Otmoor, a village in Oxfordshire to Frederick and Emily E Truby. On the 1901 census he is a scholar aged six, the only child of his parents. They lived at 29 Green Road, Wolvercote, Oxfordshire. His father is a platelayer for the Great Western Railway. Ten years later he has one sibling, a sister Leila, and the family are still living at the same address. Stanley has left school and is delivering bread for the Oxford Co-operative Society. Stanley moved to London to join the MR, as a capstan youth at St Pancras Goods Yard. By 1915 he was a member of the Kentish Town branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, when he is listed as a capstan man. He was living at 2 Fermoy Road, Westbourne Park, Paddington when he returned to Oxfordshire to marry Miss Elsie Elizabeth Fawdrey at St Paul's, Oxford on Christmas Day 1915. They set up home together at 15, Union Street, Walton Street, Oxford. It was from Westbourne Park that he enlisted as a Private 495343 in 1st/13th Kensington Battalion of the London Regiment. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 30 Oct 1917. He is commemorated at the Arras Memorial in France. His widow Elsie received a war gratuity for him in 1919. She did not remarry, remaining in Oxford where she died in 1979.

Sources 1901 Census; 1911 Census; Britain, Trade Union Membership Registers; Oxfordshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1930; Soldiers Died In The Great War 1914-1919; Commonwealth War Graves Commission Debt of Honour; Britain, Campaign, Gallantry & Long Service Medals & Awards; British Armed Forces And Overseas Deaths And Burials; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

WILLIAM WATTS (1896-1915)

William was born on 30 November 1896 to Frederick Watts and his wife Edith May, who had at least 12 children together; William was their fourth child. His father, originally from Bedfordshire, worked for the MR as an engine driver. In 1901 the family of seven was living in three rooms at 162, Allcroft Road off Queen's Crescent, Gospel Oak. As the family expanded they moved south to larger accommodation at 8 Tovey Place, whose site is now covered by Talacre Gardens, West Kentish Town. Here in 1911 amongst 10 other siblings William aged 15 has left school and is listed as a messenger with the MR at St Pancras Goods Station. He had started there a few months earlier on 7 December 1910 at 7 shillings (35p) a week. He was earning 12 shillings (60p) by 1913 when he was transferred, becoming a number taker in the Goods Station on 15 shillings (75p). His pay increased at each birthday. The number taker's duty was to stand at junctions noting the movements of every wagon and train carriage and reporting back to the Railway Clearing House in London, so that the clerks could balance train companies' competing claims. Rather like a paid trainspotter. Soon after the war began he enlisted, at Camden Town, giving his address as 8 Tovey Place. William joined as a Cyclist in the 47th London Division, the Cyclist Company of the London Regiment. His rank was a Private (No.2209). A cyclist company had been added to each British Division and cyclists were actively recruited. At first cyclist companies were employed on UK Coastal Defences with the men acting as scouts. Their role was considered to be so important that none of them were sent overseas. But during 1915 as more manpower was needed units were posted to France, where William disembarked on 15 March. The primary role of the cyclists there was in reconnaissance and communications (message taking). They were armed as infantry and could provide mobile firepower, if required. Increasingly they carried out trench-holding duties and manual work, and were used for patrol work in the rear areas behind the front lines as well as traffic control duties. In late summer William was transferred as a Private to the 19th (St. Pancras) Battalion of the London Regiment. He was among the huge numbers killed in action on 26 September 1915 during the Battle of Loos. His mother received a war gratuity for him in June 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

FREDERICK JOSEPH WHITE (1895-1916)

Born 28 June 1895 to Samuel Thomas White and his wife Emma Rowlinson at Harrison Street, King's Cross. His father was a brewer's labourer. His parents had five children but only two survived infancy. By 1901 they had moved to 67 Gray's Inn Buildings, Gray's Inn Road, where Frederick is living with his older brother George and is recorded as a scholar. After leaving school at 14, Frederick started as a Vanguard for the MR at St Pancras Goods Yard on 29 June 1909. His pay was 10 shillings (50p) a week. This rose steadily to 17s. (85p) by 1914. On the 1911 census the family, living in 2 rooms at Acton Street, King's Cross consisted solely of Frederick and his parents. He is shown as a vanguard. He enlisted at St Pancras and was posted as a Private (No. P/99) in 16th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own). He gave his residence as Kettering, Northamptonshire (his father came from Geddington in the county). Frederick was killed in action on 4 July 1916 on the fourth day of the Battle of the Somme. His mother received a war gratuity for him in 1919.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales births 1895 Qtr 3; UK, Railway Employment Records, 1833-1956; UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929.

ARTHUR WILMOTT (1899-1917)

Arthur was born in late 1899 in Gospel Oak, the youngest son of Samuel Wilmott and his wife Eliza both of whom had grown up in Kelshall, a village in North Hertfordshire. Samuel worked as a carman. The family is shown on the 1901 census living at 30 Rochford Street, Gospel Oak. By 1911 his father was alone, living in one room at 125 Pembroke

Street, Islington with his sons Bertram aged 15, a railway van boy and 10-year-old Arthur, who was at school. After leaving school at 14 he joined the MR as a porter. As soon as he could he enlisted as a Private in the 7th Middlesex Regt (no.2584) from 1 September 1915 until 8 May 1916, before transferring as a rifleman to the 9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles) of the London Regt (No. 393812) from 15 May 1916. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 14 April 1917, aged just 17. His brother Bertram who had joined the East Surrey Regt was killed a few weeks later. Both are commemorated at the Arras Memorial at Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras.

Sources 1901 census; 1911 census; England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1899 Qter 4; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; Commonwealth War Graves.

PERCIVAL WODHAMS (1891-1918)

Percival Wodhams was born on 30 July 1891 in Kentish Town the eldest child of Isaac and Lavinia Wodhams. His father was a farrier from Northamptonshire and the family lived at 25 Grafton Road. Percival was baptised at St Barnabas Church, Kentish Town on 6 September 1891. He first attended Holmes Road School before joining Haverstock Hill School on 31 August 1900. He stayed there until leaving on 27 July 1905 as he was 'over age' i.e. fourteen. His family had moved to 88, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town although on the day of the census in 1901 he was visiting his widowed aunt Julia in Northampton (and shown on the census as Percy Woodhams). By 1911 aged 19 Percival was a dining car attendant with the MR, single, living with his family at 64 Willes Rd, Kentish Town. By 1915 his father had moved to 14, Hadley Street, Kentish Town. On 19 December that year aged 24 Percival married Beatrice Georgina Brasier in Holy Trinity Church on Haverstock Hill. They were both recorded as living with Isaac although Percival gave his occupation as soldier. He had enlisted as Private in 5th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (No.12150) and disembarked in France on 31 May 1915, serving on the Western Front, later acting Lance Corporal. He died of his wounds on 29 March 1918. He was buried at St. Pol British Cemetery, St. Pol-Sur-Ternoise. In his will Percival left his widow Beatrice £131 15s 2d.

Sources Census 1901, Census 1911; London, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917; London, England, School Admissions and Discharges, 1840-1911; Trades Union Membership Registers; London, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932; England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations); British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920; UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War; UK WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls; UK Commonwealth War Graves; UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects

This research was kindly undertaken by Steve Denford, Research Team Leader, Camden History Society.