

## 47: Jack Jones [recorded also as John/Jack Hancock and Tudor]

### Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Jack Jones

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 9th Bn. Cheshire Regiment

Service Number: W/1210

Date of Death: 12 April 1918

Age at Death: 32

Buried / Commemorated at: Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of Mrs. Isabella Tudor of Lees Lane, Little Neston

Jack's outline army record notes that he was born in Neston, enlisted at Codford in Wiltshire and lived at Little Sutton. However, little is known of this family although Jack's (also recorded as *John*) surname is variously recorded as Hancock, Jones and Tudor]; indeed, it appears that names and ages are somewhat 'fluid' for this family. The booklet *Little Neston Methodist Church : Centenary History, 1872 – 1972* records that the members of the congregation who lost their lives were:

Ted Hancock	recorded in this work as <b>35: Edward Hancock</b>
Jim Woodward	recorded in this work as <b>92: James Edwin Woodward</b>
Jack Hancock	} believed to be the same person (and named as John Tudor
Jack Tudor	
	} Hancock in the 1911 census) and as John Tudor [Jack] on the family gravestone

To further the possible confusion, a different John Hancock from Neston also fought in WW1, although he is known to have survived. This second person was the son of butchers William and Harriet Hancock who ran the butchery on Neston Cross <sup>1</sup>. This John Hancock, whose address was recorded as being 103 Bedford Road, Rock Ferry, when he enlisted (unmarried, aged 29) on 28 February 1916 served as a master butcher with the RASC (Service No. 295454). He was demobilised in May 1919.

Isabella Hancock, John's mother, was born in late 1869, a daughter of agricultural labourer John and Jane Hancock of Little Neston (although, by the time of the 1881 census - see next page - the family had moved to Ness).

Jack Jones was born illegitimately as John Hancock, probably in late 1887 <sup>2</sup>, when Isabella would have been barely 18. There is no record of his baptism at Neston or Burton. Some months later, in April/June 1888 (when Isabella was about 18½) she married Edward Jones in Liverpool. It is possible that this Edward Jones was a son of fish dealer Esther Jones and that in 1881 he was living with his mother, grandmother (Kate Jones, 70) and four siblings on Pykes Weint. This Edward, in 1881, was aged 13.

<sup>1</sup> William Whitley Hancock died, aged 44, on 22 September 1894 aged 44 and was buried at the Parish Church on 25 September. Harriet subsequently married William's brother, Thomas (also a butcher) and they continued to operate the butchery. Thomas died on 21 July 1913 aged 66 and Harriet died less than four months later on 8 November 1913 aged 59.

<sup>2</sup> Between early 1884 and late 1889 there were three births of a John Hancock registered on Wirral: July/Sept. 1884 ; April/June 1886 ; January/March 1888. The last of these registrations is the most likely for the subject of this account.

John Hancock	Head	Mar	35	Ag. Lab	do Little Neston
Jane do	Wife	Mar	34	Wife & d	do Ness
Sarah do	daur		13	Scholar	do Little Neston
Isabella do	daur		11	do	do do
James do	son		6	do	do do
Elizabeth do	daur		4		do do
Edward do	son		2		do Ness Colliery
Andrew do	son		1 Mo		do do do

#### 1881 census (extract) – Ness

John Hancock	35	agricultural labourer	born Little Neston
Jane	34		born Ness
Sarah	13		born Little Neston
Isabella	11		born Little Neston
James	6		born Little Neston
Elizabeth	4		born Little Neston
Edward	2		born Ness Colliery
Andrew	1 month		born Ness Colliery

Nothing further is known of the Edward Jones who married Isabella although he appears to have died before 1892.

Unfortunately, and despite an extensive search, the family of Isabella has not been located in the census of 1891 - they were not at their 1901 address in Northwich - although her parents and siblings had moved to Burton (the location is identified only as 'cottage') and none of the children recorded in 1881, other than Andrew, aged 12, were at home.

However, four other children of John and Jane Hancock had been born, all in Burton, (Thomas, 8; Jane, 6; Annie, 4 and Mary, 1) and were in the house. Edward Hancock, the second-youngest child in 1881 was buried in Burton, aged 4, on 15 April 1883, probably shortly after the family had moved to the village.

In 1891 James Hancock, then 16, was a farm servant living at one of the larger farmhouses in the village.

It then seems that Isabella married again as, in 1901, her husband is recorded as Thomas Tudor - no record of the marriage has, however, been found anywhere - and were living close to the centre of Northwich.

In the 1901 census John, recorded as being 16, has the surname Tudor and he is recorded as the son of Thomas Tudor.

A small child, Mary Every (the surname is uncertain), is shown in the household as a nurse child. Nurse child was a term for an infant foster child, and infant taken into a family (there may not have been any blood-relationship) for a number of reasons; the child may have been illegitimate, one or both parents may have died or the parents may not have been able to look after the child due to reduced circumstances. A small fee may have been paid to the fostering family to care for the child; the alternative was that the child would end up in the workhouse.

Thomas Tudor	Head	M	38	Labourer alkali	Worker	born Chester
Isabelle	Wife	M	36			born Neston
John	Son	S	16	General Labourer farm	Member	Staffs. Burton-on-Trent
Isabella	Daughter	S	13			born Chester
Mary Every	Nurse Child	S	2			born Northwich

1901 census (extract) – 1, Ryders Street, Northwich

Thomas Tudor	38	labourer, alkali	born Chester
Isabelle	36		born Neston
John	16	general labourer, farm	born Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.
Isabelle	13		born Chester
Mary Every	2	nurse child	born Northwich

John's place of birth is recorded, erroneously, as Burton-on-Trent; he was born in Burton, Wirral, although there is no record of his baptism at either Burton or Neston Parish Church.

Ryders Street, in the centre of Northwich, has since been redeveloped. Whilst no Isabella Tudor's birth was registered in Chester around 1888, an Isabella was registered in Nantwich in mid-1889. Nothing is known of Mary Every.

Thomas Tudor was working as a labourer at the soda-ash ('alkali') works in Northwich. In 1874, John Brunner and Ludwig Mond founded Brunner Mond in Winnington, a suburb of Northwich, and started manufacturing soda ash using the Solvay ammonia-soda process. This process used salt from the nearby deposits as a main raw material and the chemical industry used the subsided land, created by the pumping of underground brine, for the disposal of waste from the manufacture of soda-ash. This was a dangerous alkaline substance and caused the landscape to be abandoned as unusable. [Source: adapted from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwich>]

By 1911 the family had moved, for unknown reasons, from Northwich to Little Neston.

John, now identified as a step-son, is recorded as John Tudor Hancock - this was his mother's maiden name. Mary Tudor Havey is, possibly, the Mary Every recorded in the 1901 census although the ages are inconsistent <sup>3</sup>. Now adopted - presumably as a formality - she was joined in the household by Agnes Tudor Jones (also adopted) and Annie Tudor, possibly a daughter of Thomas and Isabella <sup>4</sup>. Details of Agnes and Annie are absent as the available Parish Registers do not extend beyond early 1902 although Annie's birth, in Neston, was registered in Wirral in early 1907 and an Agnes Jones was born in Neston in 1905.

<sup>3</sup> No record of the registration of the birth of a Mary Every, Avery, Havey or similar has been found for Northwich. However, two girls named Mary Heavey were registered in Northwich – April/June 1895 and January/March 1896 (although no death is recorded for anyone of that name in the town at that time).

<sup>4</sup> Child adoption had no legal status in Britain until 1926, when the first Act was passed [Adoption of Children Act 1926] which regulated this in England and Wales. Until then, child adoption was an informal and generally secretive procedure which gave the adoptive parents no rights whatsoever: a biological parent could (and in some cases, did) appear at any time and demand custody of a child they had neither seen nor contributed to the care of for years at a time. [A Child for Keeps: the History of Adoption in England, 1918-45 Jenny Keating Palgrave Macmillan 2008]. The main reasons for children being adopted had been unmarried mothers giving up their children for adoption and stepparents adopting their new partner's children.

# CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedules 80  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday and SEX)	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards	BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY.
<p>of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who</p> <p>(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight; or</p> <p>(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.</p> <p>No one else must be included.</p> <p>(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>							
<p>State whether "Head," "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."</p> <p>For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.</p> <p>Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow" opposite the name of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.</p> <p>State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—</p> <p>Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)</p> <p>Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any, state the number of children born alive to each previous marriage.)</p> <p>Children living.</p> <p>Children who have died.</p> <p>Total Children born alive.</p> <p>Children still living.</p> <p>Children who have died.</p>							
<p>The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &amp;c.</p> <p>If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated.</p> <p>(See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)</p>							
<p>Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account</p> <p>Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry—</p> <p>(1) "Employer" (that is, employing persons other than domestic servants);</p> <p>(2) "Worker" (that is, working for an employer); or</p> <p>(3) "Own Account" (that is, neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).</p> <p>Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.</p>							
<p>(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.</p> <p>(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.</p> <p>(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.</p> <p>(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."</p> <p>NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Homeborn" or "Visitor" in this Country.</p>							
<p>State whether—</p> <p>(1) "British subject by parentage";</p> <p>(2) "Naturalized British subject," giving year of naturalization.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>(3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Italian," "Russian," etc.</p> <p>If any person included in this Schedule is—</p> <p>(1) "Totally Blind," or "Dead and Dumb";</p> <p>(2) "Totally Blind," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.</p>							

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)			(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)		
<p>I certify that—</p> <p>(1) All the persons on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns.</p> <p>(2) I have entered the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.</p> <p>(3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.</p> <p>Initials of Enumerator: <i>J.H.L.</i></p>			<p>Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.</p> <p>3</p> <p>I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.</p> <p>Signature: <i>Mr. Thomas Tudor</i></p> <p>Postal Address: <i>Rodney Row Little Neston</i></p>		

1911 census (condensed) – Rodney Row, Little Neston

Name	Age	Occupation	Born
Thomas Tudor	46	labourer, roads, District Council	born Saltney
Bella	41	housekeeper	born Little Neston
John Tudor Hancock	23	step son, carter, boys' private school	born Burton, Ches.
Mary Tudor Havey	16	adopted daughter, general servant	born Northwich
Agnes Tudor Jones	7	adopted daughter	born Little Neston
Annie Tudor	4		born Little Neston

Thomas and Bella had been married for 19 years and all four of their children had survived although only two children of this marriage (Isabelle and Annie) are recorded, John being an earlier child and Mary and Agnes being adopted. Perhaps Mary and Agnes have been included.

The 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion Cheshire Regiment was formed at Chester on 13 September 1914 as part of Kitchener's second New Army and came under the orders of the 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 19<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division. The battalion moved to Salisbury Plain for training and by December 1914 was in billets in Basingstoke, returning to Salisbury Plain in March 1915.

On 19 July 1915 they landed at Boulogne, the division concentrated near St Omer. Their first action was at Pietre, in a diversionary action supporting The Battle of Loos. In 1916 they were in action during The Battle of the Somme, capturing La Boisselle and being involved in the attacks on High Wood, The Battles of Pozieres Ridge, the Ancre Heights and the Ancre. In 1917 they were in action in The Battle of Messines and the Third Battles of Ypres (Battle of Passchendaele).

On 7 February 1918 the battalion transferred to the 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the same Division and in 1918 they fought on The Somme during The Battle of St Quentin and The Battle of Bapaume and in The Battle of the Lys at Messines. It is most probable that it was here, in a series of conflicts that lasted from 7 April - 29 April 1918 (and known also as



The Lys Offensive, The Fourth Battle of Ypres and The Third Battle of Flanders) that Jack Jones was killed. The Tudor family grave in Neston Cemetery records that John/'Jack' (Tudor) was 'killed in action near Ypres, France, April 1918'. On 27 December 1917 Jack was recorded on the Daily List as having been wounded but, as his death on 12 April 1918 is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, his body was either not recovered or his grave remains unknown.

The Battle of the Lys was part of the 1918 German Spring Offensive as a final attempt by the Germans to break the Allied lines around Ypres before the American forces reached Western Europe. Their aim was to capture Ypres (Ieper) and the surrounding high ground around Messines.

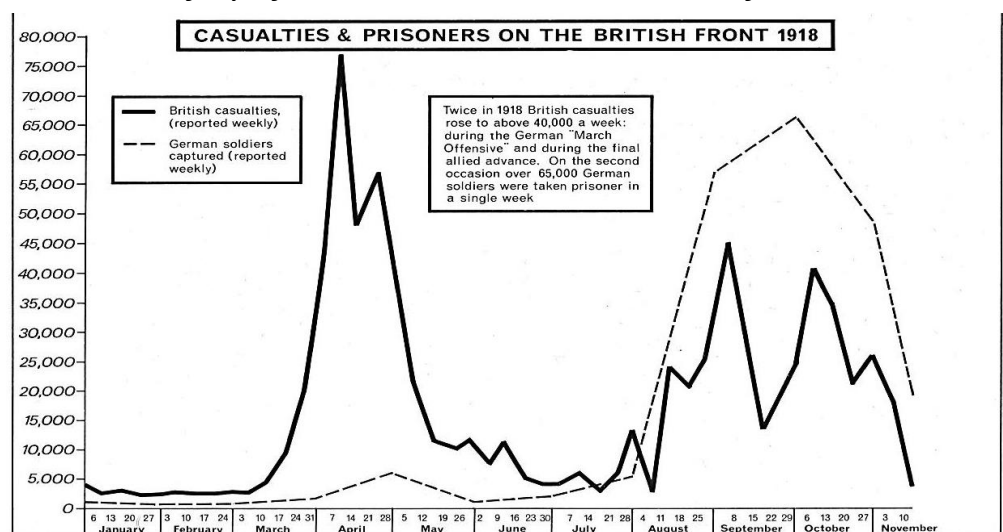
The British First Army commanded by General Horne was south of the River Lys and the Second Army, commanded by General Plumer, was to the north. The German plan was to attack the First Army south of the river before moving northwest and the German advance here was greater than they could have expected.

On 10 April, the German Fourth Army attacked north of Armentières with four divisions, hitting the British 19<sup>th</sup> Division which included the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment. The British Second Army had sent its reserves south to aid the First Army and the Germans broke through, advancing up to 3 kilometres on a 6 kilometres front, and capturing Messines.

British losses at this time were considerable and, by 11 April, the British situation was desperate; the German advance had been so significant that Field Marshal Haig asked the new General-in-Chief Allied Forces, Marshal Foch, for reinforcements. Foch was, initially, unwilling to send reinforcements but on 14 April he concurred as, between 10 April and 14 April, British troops had been in a precarious position. On 10 April Haig issued his "backs to the wall" order:

*"With our backs to the wall, and believing in the justice of our cause, each of us must fight on to the end" to protect "The safety of our homes and the Freedom of mankind".*

It was during this period of intense warfare and chaotic close-action fighting that Jack Jones was killed – his body was not recovered - and commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. A relevant section of the War Diary for the time of Jack's death is reproduced on the following page.



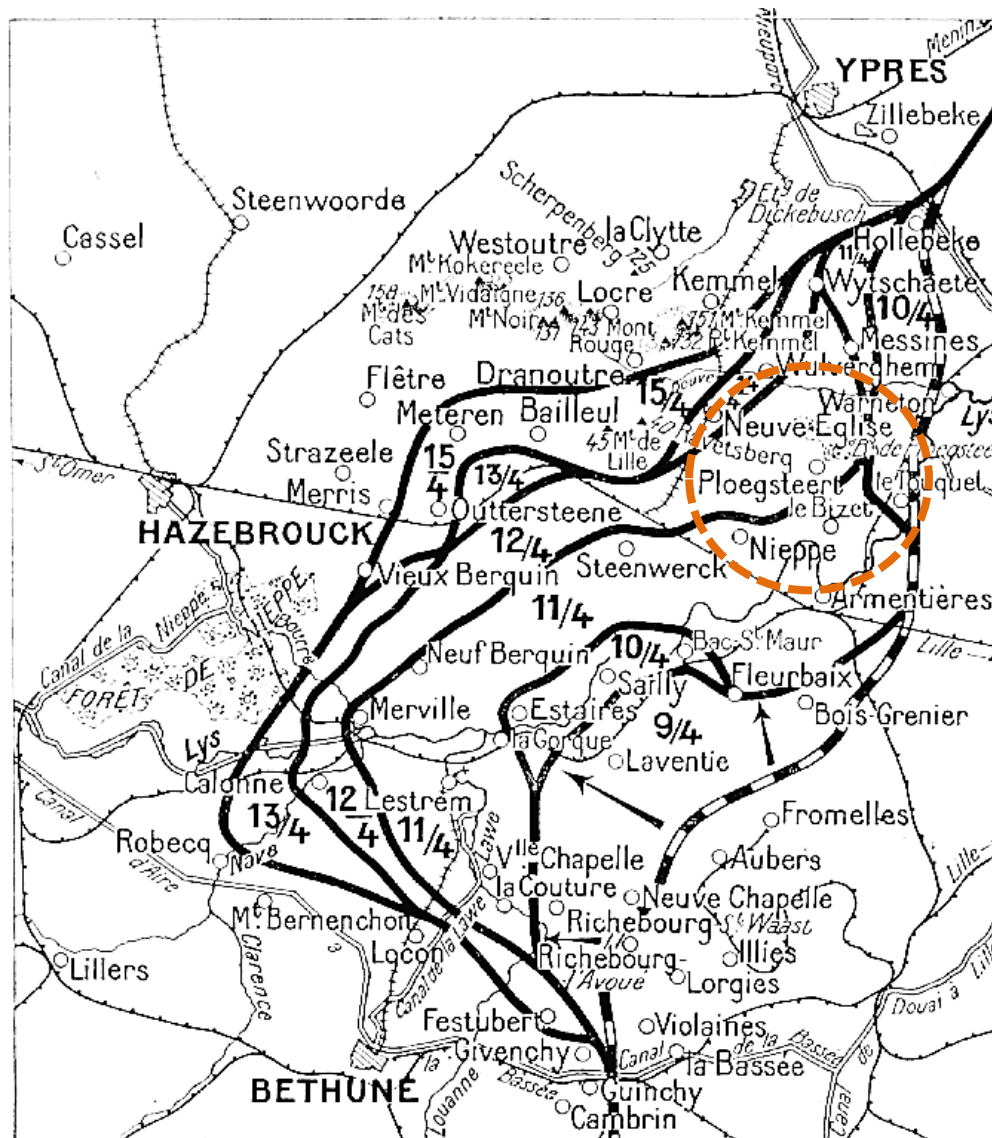
Source: The Routledge Atlas of the First World War Martin Gilbert 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2002 Routledge

		2nd Lieut V.E. HUMPHRIES was reported missing (as from the early morning of the 11 <sup>th</sup> ) after this withdrawal but eventually turned up in hospital wounded. Capt A.R. WALTON was wounded by a sniper from LE ROMARN about 4.30 pm. Except for occasional shells the remainder of the night passed quietly - the enemy's very lights could be seen, however, gradually drawing closer. About 7 a.m. he had been located in the copse at B.3. central (Sheet 36) and movement in our positions attracted the fire of snipers. Shelling increased from 8 a.m. onwards. No further enemy were seen on the battalion front (except an occasional solitary man) but he was seen in large numbers on our right and around the NIEPPE - BAILLEUL Road. At 10.40 a.m. he was seen to bring field guns out of NIEPPE at a gallop and get them into action about B.9.C (see situation report - App K23).	App K23
		At 915 Wt. W11422/M1160 33/000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C/2118/14.	
LAMPERNISSE	12	A Battalion of the MONMOUTHS on our right suffered heavily from these guns and from French Mortars. At 4.30 pm the enemy (who by that time had massed his troops) delivered an attack astride the BAILLEUL Road and broke through the Battalion's right. No news was forthcoming of the MONMOUTHS and there were no troops to reinforce the right flank. Heavy enfilade fire was being opened on the battalion from the S. side of the road. It was decided therefore to withdraw onto the high ground around NEUVE EGLISE, which was strongly occupied by Machine Guns. During the night a general withdrawal of the Brigade into support was ordered to the line NEUVE EGLISE - RAVELSBURG - MONT DE LILLE. The	

Extract of War Diary, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment (19<sup>th</sup> Division) – 11 April (part) – 13 April (part) 1918  
Transcription (continuing before, and after, the extract shown)

- COURT RUE 11 April 1918 By 11.30pm two companies and Battalion HQ had established a line at B.3.a.1.4. LAMPERNISSE FARM (the Brigade having had orders to side-slip on arrival at PONT D'ACHELLES) and were digging in in front of LAMPERNISSE FARM. About midnight the other two companies (B & C) arrived and took up positions in this line. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. V.E. HUMPHRIES was reported missing (as from the early morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>) after this withdrawal but eventually turned up in hospital wounded. Capt. A.R. WALTON was wounded by a sniper from LE ROMARN about 4.30pm.
- 12 Except for occasional shells the remainder of the night passed quietly – the enemy's Very Lights could be seen, however, gradually drawing closer. About 7.0am he had been located in the copse at B.3. central (Sheet 36) and movement in our positions attracted the fire of snipers. Shelling increased from 8.0am onwards. No further enemy were seen on the battalion front (except an occasional solitary man) but he was seen in large numbers on our right and around the NIEPPE-BAILLEUL road. At 10.40am he was seen to bring field guns out of NIEPPE at a gallop and get them into action about B.9.C. (See situation report – App K23).
- A battalion of the MONMOUTHS on our right suffered heavily from these guns and from French Mortars. At 4.30pm the enemy (who by that time had massed his troops) delivered an attack astride the BAILLEUL ROAD and broke through the Battalion's right. No news was forthcoming of the MONMOUTHS and there were no troops to reinforce the right flank. Heavy enfilade fire was being opened on the battalion from the S. side of the road. It was decided therefore to withdraw onto the high ground around NEUVE EGLISE, which was strongly occupied by Machine Guns. During the night a general withdrawal of the Brigade into support to the line NEUVE EGLISE-RAVELSBURG-MONT DE LILLE. The Brigade frontage being T.14.c. 3.5. to S.18.a. central. This was held by two battalions in the front line, the 9th Cheshire being on the right. Battalion HQ was established at S.18.b.6.4. (Sheet 28) in a small cottage. The dawn was very misty. At 6.0am enemy shelling commenced and by 9.0am was most violent - especially in the neighbourhood of the BAILLEUL main road (from ARMENTIERES) – no infantry action appeared to follow however, but the morning was so misty it was impossible to see more than 50 yards. By 11.0am the situation was again quiet and by 1.0pm scarcely a sound could be heard.
- 13





Map and text (italics) from the *Michelin Illustrated Guides to the Battlefields (1914 – 1918) : Ypres and the Battles of Ypres* Michelin & Cie., Clermont-Ferrand, 1919

The area in which the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment was in action at this time is encircled in orange.

ON APRIL 9—20, 1918, THE GERMANS BROKE THROUGH THE ALLIES' FRONT, SOUTH OF YPRES, AND ADVANCED TO NIEPPE FOREST AND THE CHAIN OF THE FLANDERS HILLS

The German objective was to advance from the east, break through the Allied lines, and advance north-westwards to the coast.

*On the 12<sup>th</sup> the fighting continued furiously. Advancing along the Lille-Hazebroeck railway, the Germans reached the outskirts of Nieppe Forest. South-west of Merville they captured Calonne, and, further north, approached Bailleul.*

*North of the Lys, under pressure of Von Arnim's army, the Messines-Wytschaete Crest, with the wood and village of Ploegsteert, had to be abandoned. The British line was withdrawn to Neuve-Eglise and Wulverghem. In these few days the gains of the Allied offensive of the last five months of 1917 were lost.*

The 13<sup>th</sup> marked the culminating point of the battle in the central sector. Foch made his dispositions promptly, and French reinforcements were despatched to the critical points.

For the period 11 - 13 April 1918 Arthur Crookenden noted:

### 11th April.

During the 11th, the German attack centred on the IX. Corps (19th and 25th Divisions), and gained the top of the Messines ridge and Hill 63.

The Army Commander (Plumer), felt himself forced by pressure on the right flank to order the troops to fall back to the line Steenwerk—Neuve Eglise—Wulverghem—Wytschaete.

At 5-45 a.m. on the 11th, the enemy made a breach in the 75th Brigade front. The 9th Battalion was on the south of the breach and withdrew, while on the north of it, the remainder of the 75th Brigade, including our 11th Battalion, formed a defensive flank facing south. The 9th Battalion, much worried by machine gun fire from near Romarin, had to fight its way back to a line west of Romarin. The capture of this machine gun post with 14 Germans by 2nd/Lieut. Strong, of the Border Regiment, with some of his own men and some of ours, was an especially fine and valuable piece of work. Many unrecorded acts of gallantry took place during the day's fighting, which was very severe.

During this time, the 9th Battalion earned special praise from the Brigade Commander for the invaluable service it had rendered in keeping touch with both flanks during a very difficult withdrawal, and for the way it had kept Brigade "H.Q." informed of its progress.

The German penetration on the 11th, quickly widened into a gap of some two miles into which German machine guns were boldly advanced.

To return to the 10th Battalion, the evening of the 10th found them also in a pronounced salient along the north edge of Ploegsteert Wood, holding a very extended front of some 2,000 yards.

At 12-30 p.m. on the 11th, 7th Brigade H.Q. ordered the 1st Wiltshire and the 10th Battalion, both now in the catacombs of Hill 63, to retire as soon as practicable. It was the first intimation of danger on this day which they had received. Colonel L. H. K. Finch, of The Regiment, temporarily Commanding the 4th North Staffords, who had come to 10th Battalion H.Q. to get information, rang up Brigade H.Q. and, it is said, agreed with them that withdrawal should begin at 5 p.m. Somehow there was a misunderstanding and the impression was left that the Battalions on Hill 63 were to hold out to the last.

The enemy attacked, and one company of the 10th Battalion made a gallant effort to relieve the situation on the St. Yves spur by a counter-attack, but it was all in vain. The catacombs were surrounded, and only individuals succeeded in fighting their way back to a position west of Neuve Eglise, where a 7th Brigade Composite Battalion, under Major A. Reade, M.C., was formed.

A party which had been previously detailed by Colonel Finch to give covering fire from Hill 63, while those in the catacombs withdrew, had to endure there a terrific machine gun barrage. These men did wonderful work, keeping the enemy off Hill 63 till nightfall. By dark, the hill was surrounded, but they managed to retire under cover of darkness.

The first orders received by this Composite Battalion were to take up a position in rear of Bailleul with a view to counter-attacking that town. Later in the night, at 2 a.m., it was sent to a position on the Ravelsburg. The fighting was very fierce, but it was this position which held up the enemy. The enemy sent forward patrols who fired Verey lights to show the way. But these patrols were promptly attacked and their efforts annulled.

#### **12th April.**

At daylight, the position was as follows. The 75th Brigade was holding from Papot—via Lampernisse Farm—west of Romarin—and thence northwards. The 9th and 11th Battalions were both close to Papot.

The 10th Battalion, or what was left of it, was in the Ravelsburg line.

The 25th Division was again attacked, the 75th Brigade with the 9th Battalion being the only Brigade in the front line. Snipers began work the 9th Battalion at daylight, from Lampernisse Copse, but no attack in strength was launched till 2 p.m. By 4 p.m. the 9th Battalion was being pressed back, and the companies were withdrawn to a position at Kortepyp.

#### **13th April.**

By the morning of the 13th, the IX. Corps was facing south, protecting the high ground which runs from Kemmel to Cassel.

The fighting on this day, in which the 9th, 10th and 11th Battalions were involved, was very confused. The Germans attacked heavily, once more covered by fog, and elements of the 75th Brigade were driven back across Ravelsburg, to be collected and reorganized by the ever-watchful Generals and Staff at Crucifix Corner, where the 7th Brigade Composite Battalion was already in position.



W255. RB222/18-100 B.A.-Wt. & Sons, Ltd. 1900																	
Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised			No. of List in which advertised	
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	£	s.			d.	Account and Date	£		s.
896901	11/16/19	Jones John Jack	Machine Co 1310	over time 12-1-18 presumed dead	11-19	11	3	6				13-6/19/1	Mrs & Isabella Tudor	11	3	6	
					WAR GRATUITY. 18/20 22-9-19 Transferred 6/20/19 Regd. Paper 2/20/25 Serial No. 286256	17	-					23-2-20 23-2-20	Isabella Tudor	17	-	-	18
	10-5-19	A. F. W. 5040 sent 10/9/19															

### Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was paid. John Jack Jones had accrued a credit of £11 3s 6d and this was received by his mother Isabella, as sole legatee. Isabella received also the £17 War Gratuity.

The total payment, £28 3s 6d, is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (ie wages) of about £4200 in 2016.

Although Jack Jones was officially listed as being killed in action, this record notes that his death was *on or since 12-4-18, presumed dead*.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

Isabella/Bella Tudor, commemorated on the family gravestone, was 64 when she died.

Part of the degraded Tudor family grave in Neston Cemetery, Raby Road.

Some of the lead letters have fallen away from the inscription.

Transcription of the main elements:

John Tudor [Jack]

Beloved son of Thomas and Isabel Tudor

Of Little Neston

Killed in action near Ypres, France, April 1918

Aged 31 years

Also Thomas Tudor

Father of the above

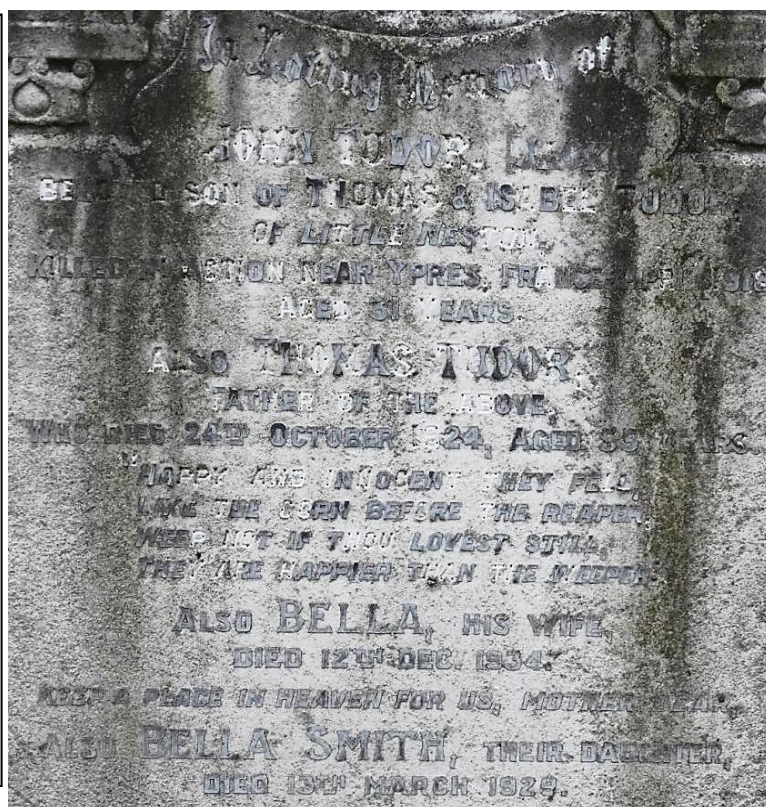
Who died 24<sup>th</sup> October 1924, aged 59 years

Also Bella, his wife

Died 12<sup>th</sup> December 1934

Also Bella Smith, their daughter

Died 13<sup>th</sup> March 1929







Isabelle/Isabella Tudor, a daughter of Isabella and Thomas, married Allen Smith in Wirral in April/June 1911 (although not at Neston Parish Church) and when she died in 1929 (she would have been about 41) she was buried in the Tudor grave in Neston Cemetery.

The complete Tudor family gravestone

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
JONES.	Ches: R.	Plt.	aw/1210.
Jack.	- 11 -	- 11 -	- 11 -

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	5/2/101 <sup>b</sup>	189.	Pres: D. 12-4-18.
BRITISH	10 -	100.	
15. STAR	5/2/131.	100.	
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France		
Date of entry therein	25.9.15		

K. 1380.

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920