83: John William Thackery (Thackwray)

Basic Information [as recorded	on local memorial or by	(CWGC]					
Name as recorded on local men	norial or by CWGC:	John William Thackery / Thackwray					
Rank: Private							
Battalion / Regiment: 10th B	n. Cheshire Regiment						
Service Number: 221	Date of Death: 03 Sept	ember 1916	Age at Death:	22			
Buried / Commemorated at: Somme, Picardie, France	Blighty Valley Cemetery	r, Authuille Wood, Authu	ille, Departeme	nt de la			
Additional information given by	CWGC: The son of Geo	rge and Eliza Thackwray	of 15, Olive Rd.,	Neston.			

The CWGC records the surname correctly as Thackwray although the name inscribed (incorrectly) on the memorial



in Neston Parish Church, and elsewhere, is shown as *Thackery* [see image, above]. On the Graves Registration Report Form the surname appears to have been spelt

'Thackerwray', this being crossed through and the name 'Thackwray' handwritten above [see extract].

John William Thackwray (he was known generally as William) was the fifth child of railway platelayer George and Eliza Thackwray and was born in Bromborough (the family lived in Rake Lane) in the third quarter of 1894 shortly before the family moved to Neston.

GFP.	COMPR	EMENSIVE REPORT.	10.9.20.	Army Form V	V. 3372.
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1901 census (extract) – Ra	by Road, Neston		
George Thackwray	36	foreman platelayer	born Yorkshire
Eliza	33		born Stoke, Cheshire
Lavinia	13		born Hooton
Albert	10		born Bromborough
	8		born Bromborough
Emily	0		0
Emily William	6		born Bromborough

By 1911 the family had moved to 29 Gladstone Road, Neston (the house number was shown on the address side of the census form):

RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEL.	PABT	ICULARS I	us to MA	RRIAGE	-			N or OCCUPATION ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Poreign Country.	INFIRMITT
	For Infants		State, enter	d on this	Schedul	Woman Ic, the	Fere	onal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Assount.	Whether Working at Home	(1) If born in the United King- dom, write the name of the County and Town or Parish.	State whether :	If any per- included in t Schedule is:- (1) "Total
State whether " Head," or " Wide," " Son," " Daughter," or other Relative, " Visitor."	under one year state the age in months as "under one month," " one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons	Com- pleted years the present Marriage has	Childre pre (If n alive w	m born sent Mar o childre rrite " No	n born	If engaged in an particular kind	y Trade or Manufacture, the of work done, and the Article	This question should gener- ally be answered by stating the baninos carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered bere.	Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry. (1) "Employee" (that is employing persons other than demestic servants).	Write the words " "At Home " opposite the mane of each Decen	 (2) If horn in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) H horn in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. 	 (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of natu- ralisation. Or (3) If of foreign 	Deaf," or "D and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blin (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile or "Feel minded,"
" Servant."		aged 15 years and upwards.	lasted. If less than one year write " under one."	Total Children Bern Alire,	Children still Living.	who have Died.	be clearly indi (See Instructions of Schedule.)	ated. I to 8 and Examples on back	vants in private employment. II employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Exam- ples on back of Schedule.)	is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Trade or Industry at home.	(4) If born at see, write "At See," Norm.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	state whether "French." "German," "Russran," etc.	opposite that son's name, the age at wh he or she been afflicted.
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1911 census – Gladstone Road, Neston

G. Thackwray	47	platelayer	born Yorkshire
Eliza	43	general servant	born Stann[e]y, Cheshire
Emily	18	general servant	born Bromborough
William	16	apprentice joiner	born Bromborough
Ethel	14	general servant	born Neston
Maggie	9	school	born Neston

George and Eliza had been married for 24 years and six of their eight children had survived.

The two children who died, both in infancy, were:

Charles Arthur	born 2 nd quarter of 1889	died 1 st quarter of 1890
George	born 2 nd quarter of 1899	died ^{3rd} quarter of 1899

William's father, George Russell Thackwray, was born on 30 August 1863 at Leyburn in North Yorkshire; the surname is not unusual in that region. George married Eliza



Cooper (born 9 March 1868 at Little Stanney) at St Peter's Church, Liverpool, in the 3rd quarter of 1886; Eliza was the daughter of farm labourer Samuel (born Burton) and Margaret Cooper. George died 31 March 1948 (his age was registered as 76 although the family grave records him, correctly, as 84) and Eliza died 7 March 1957 aged 89. Sometime before September 1916 they had moved the short distance from Gladstone Road to Olive Road, Neston although in the 1939 Register they are shown at 27 Gladstone Road and George's Probate record of May 1948 gives this same address.

29 Gladstone Road, Neston



Little is known of the service career of William Thackwray as his Service Record does not seem to have survived. It is known that he enlisted in the 13th Battalion Cheshire Regiment early in the war and that the enlistment probably took place at Port Sunlight.

The 13th (Service) Battalion, known unofficially as the 'Wirral Battalion', was formed at Port Sunlight on 1 September 1914 by Gershom Stewart, MP. In October the troops moved to Chester where they came under the orders of the 74th Brigade in the 25th Division. By December 1914 the troops were billeted in Bournemouth, moving to Aldershot in May 1915 before landing in France on 25 September 1915.

The newspaper report of William's death notes that *'...he had been wounded four times, and had only been out of hospital a few days when he fell a victim to the enemy's poisonous gas'*. At some unknown time William had transferred from the 13th to the 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment (in the 7th Brigade, 25th Division) and he was serving with them when he died.

Neston Man Succumbs to Gas.

Official notification has been received by Mr. and Mrs. George Thaokwray, Officeroad, Neston, of the death of their youngest son, John William Thackwray, from the effects of gas poisoning on Sept. 3rd. He was a very patriotic youth, and one of the keenest members of the Boy Scouts at tached to the Congregational Church. De ceused was also an ardent footballer, and was very popular among bis companions one of his greatest friends being Pte. W. H Tozer, whose doubh and funeral we re corded last week. Fite. Thackwray was on of the first to answer his country's call, an enlisted in the 13th Cheshires, proceedin to the front with the Battalion. He has

been wounded four times, and had only been out of hospital a few days when he fell a violim to the enemy's poisonous gas.

Birkenhead News – Saturday 20 September 1916

It seems most probable that William was involved in The

Battle of Pozières, a two-week struggle for the French village of Pozières and the ridge on which it stands, during the middle stages of the 1916 Battle of the Somme. This commenced on 23 July and concluded on 3 September, the day when William died.

Although British divisions, including the 10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment (and the 11th and 13th Battalions), were involved in most phases of the fighting they did not take part in any set-piece attacks, and Pozières is remembered primarily as an Australian battle and one in which losses on both sides were great especially as it appears that both sides used poison gases. In fact, the Australians bombarded the village with phosgene and tear gas before their main advance.

For the 25th Division The Long, Long Trail records that, for the Battle of Pozières: From 23 July to 10 August 1916, the Division held a sector of the line north of the River Ancre. Once again, just as in the Bazentin battle, the Division is recognised as having been in action during the Battle of Pozières, without being in the area of most attention during the fighting. Relieved by units of 6th and Guards Divisions between 7 and 14 August, the Division moved to Bus les Artois for rest and training. Divisional HQ moved up to Hedauville on 18 August and the infantry moved into the trenches of the Leipzig Salient. A local attack by 7th Brigade on 21 August was carried out successfully, using for the first time a device known as a "push pipe mine" to destroy enemy defences before the infantry went in. Further attacks were made on 23, 25 and 26 August. On 3 September, a larger scale attack was made in support of the 4th Australian Division which was assaulting Mouquet Farm.

The Battalion War Diary entries give some details of the events around this time:

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WAR DIARY ELIGENCE SUMMAR

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Place	Date ·	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
דאינטאיד אלט צו	31 8/16.		Working party of 20 files + 100 OR: ditailed & reported at Gracebing CRUCIFIX CORVER at 7:30 pm. Orders BMX 26 annual suddenly at-11 pm. that the Betlate was placed at the price of the Gold 75 Bills + this to relieve the 8th Bor den Regt some might. This Relief was duly camed out Bott Has at RUMRINY Post ally H by in Frat line. Day in support. Bar the char man TITISMANN. Clay at work Post	13M 895- BMX 26
IN TREACHES	1/9/16		SITURTION - Carideappe Chilling hat his cultured to all a company ister tracher during afternoon	
Has QUARREY Post XI d.60			SITURTION - Considuable Shelling, on front lie support bracken & communication trenches strong of tempore. CASUALTEE - O.R. 2 Killed 2 wounded be push up & Occupy point R31 d 6.2. al-atom of the working party of 20H + 100 OR from PROEFIC CORVER reported The Battalian Tropinia The following CARUALTER OD have an and from PROEFIC CORVER reported The Battalian Tropinia	
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			a food deal on our left during night. CHEUHLTIER - OR wounded & 1611.	
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: 3			D by returned to BOUSINGOURT in carly morning. about 11:30 PM, orders Received to relate 32th Concester & 220 S. Sones in his. There the reflected led tolow part in an Units carly attack in early morning. Belief these carried out & completed by about 3PM DISPOSITIONS - Day left of front line 2 cay selfed of part line B bay in TOBER MORY STREET Hony in reserve in HUTHURLE Marine Both and the	35 When he
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10th Battalion Cheshire Regiment War Diary extracts, 31 August 1916 – 5 September 1916

BOUZINCOURT 31/8/16 Working party of 2 officers & 100 OR detailed & reported at CRUCIFIX CORNER at 7.30PM. Order BMX26 arrived suddenly at 11.0PM that the Battalion was placed at disposal of the GOC 75th Bde & was to relieve the 8th Border Regt same night. This relief was duly carried out. Batt. HQs at QUARRY POST. Only A Coy in front line. D Coy in support. B Coy in trenches near TITHBARN. C Coy at WOOD POST.

IN TRENCHES 1/9/16 SITUATION – Considerable shelling on front line support trenches & communication trenches during afternoon.

HQs QUARRY POST CASUALTIES – OR 2 killed, 2 wounded. We push up and occupy points R31 & 62. At about 4PM the working party of 2 off & 100 OR from CRUXIFIX CORNER rejoined the Battalion & reported the following CASUALTIES OR 4 wounded, 6 missing 2 of which believed killed.

C & B Coys were placed at the disposal of Staff Captain 75th Bde for the purpose of forming dumps of materials. A Coy received orders to form dumps in her line ref P35 in accordance with Bde order. A Bombing Post was established at pt. R31 & 73.

Orders for patrol on our front line were received from Bde.

2/9/16 SITUATION Trenches badly damaged by heavy shelling during night, but fairly quiet during day. INTELLIGENCE ETC. – One patrol got into trenches with 9th LIVL on our right. A special patrol reconnoitred the trench 73.84.15 & found it badly damaged. The enemy were reported to have been digging a good deal on our left during night.

CASUALTIES – OR Wounded 9 Killed 1 Missing 2

Orders received for our relief by 11th Ches. Relief was carried out as in orders P58 & P91. A, B & C Coys were reported in Billets at BOUZINCOURT at about 10.0PM.

BOUZINCOURT 3/9/16 D Coy returned to BOUZINCOURT in early morning. About 11.30AM orders received to relieve 3rd Worcesters & 2nd S. Lancs. In line. These two regiments had taken part in an unsuccessful attack in early morning. Relief was carried out & completed by about 3.0PM. DISPOSITION – D Coy left of front line, C Coy right of front line, B Coy in support in TOBERMORY STREET. A Coy in reserve in AUTHUILLE village. Batt. Front ran from THIEPVAL AVENUE to CAMPBELL AVENUE but N/M Coy in front was covered by 8th Borders holding captured trenches in LEIPZIG REDOUBT Batt. HQs CAMPBELL POST. [Continued on following page]

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TREIVERN E DE HUTHUILLE BETWERN CAMPAREN R3I CH3 HMA THITEFTAL DYRNUE R3I 2 5 9	3 9 16.		The track system taken our had suffice very councily from Shell first tracking on portant trackes had been completely orbitalted. There was a gap of about 250 4%s in front track between Day on life & Clay on Right During night working parties of arted to cut a track across This gaps. It's a food deal of work was carried out in clearny trackes to penny dujoints, which has been blow in Patros went at to search for committee lofe from stack made by 2th Stories in early morning before we releved. Confratilatory mensage received from Goe, on work done by Bett	
μ.	⁴ +19 /16		Intechigence Report as follows. Can denotes artitley a timely on Front line & communication trinches dumy aftername, of yesterday. Last evening ofte dark 2 miles of BE (200 S. 1. 1990) retired from Serman trinch attacked by the yesterday morning. A written Report man sort in an information of the series of a patral last night ormade a recencelisance of Wis mans land between 42 1248 7 format eveny in truck. Consumery REPORT - Keled 1. Dued of Bas affects 1. bounded 8. Samed 4. BITURTIST. Since Since the and the and the series of the main of part of the and the series of point of the series of the s	, J 32
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TRENCHES E. OF AUTHUILLE3/9/16The trench system taken over had suffered very severely from shell fireBETWEEN CAMPBELL AVENUEand many important trenches had been completely obliterated. There was aR31 & 43AND THIEPVALAVENUE R31 & 69During night working parties started to cut a trench across this gap. Also aGood deal of work was carried out in clearing trenches and opening dugoutswhich had been blown in. Patrols went out to search for wounded left from

attack made by 2nd S. LANCS in early morning before we relieved.

Congratulatory message received from GOC on work done by Batt. during last tour in trenches.

4/9/16 Intelligence Report as follows. Considerable Artillery activity on front line and communication trenches during afternoon of yesterday. Last evening after dark 2 men of BE (2nd LANCS) returned from German trenches attacked by them yesterday morning. A written Report was sent in an information given by those men. We sent out a patrol last night & made a reconnaissance of No Man's Land between 42 & 48 & found enemy in trench.

CASUALTY REPORT – Killed 1 Died of gas effects 1 Wounded 8 Gassed 4 SITUATION – Quiet generally. The men shewn as gassed were from effect of a gas shell of apparently new type. The man who died, died within 15 mins of being gassed.

Also in addition to above casualty report L^{T.} HOLMES in command of C Coy was wounded. In evening 4 more cases of poisoning by gas shells occurred & two of the cases died within 45 mins of being gassed. This shell resembled an ordinary 'Whiz Bang' & the cases had severe abdominal pains.

The MO sent in a lengthy report on this to the ADMS.

G794 Received from Bde ref. a message from Army Commander & recent attack.

Some of the reports relating to these events give further interesting detail and these are reproduced on the following two pages.

CHACKWBAY-September 5, killed in action, aged 22 years, Private J. W. Thackwray; youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Thackwray, 15, Olive-road, Neston-(Deeply mourned by all at home.)

Liverpool Echo - Thursday 14 September 1916

Birkenhead Advertiser – Saturday 23 September 1916

DEATH OF NESTON SOLDIER.

The sympathy of the neighbourhood goes out to Mr. and Mrs. G. Thackeray, who have received official news of the death of their youngest son. Private W. Thackeray was for some time a popular member of the Neston Co. Boys' Brigade, and joined the Cheshire Regiment soon after the outbreak of war. Whilst serving with this regiment he was killed in action a few days ago.

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Report compiled on 3 September 1916 concerning the conditions around the front line



To: ADMS 2500 Arris un HHI 4 916 444 we have hed 7 cases of gas. shill pasoning during the last 24 hours - 3 of-When died one man died within 15 mins (I was make to find any wound whatever) The other two dried within 45 mind The Circumat ances where as follows :-Ut 10 oclock last night I was called to See 4 min, who ever branght down in a very exhausted condition & suffering from Intense headache seme abdominal pain. (are was very mild care proves returned to chily) & shell had burst (with a gente explosion) within the articance to Whitst one died within 15 minutes & the other setume of to obuty tiday ... at 7 oc this evening two men stand phroadly the lat ance of a dug out when de hell Deploded which wounded both of the rather tadly & then a third who was stated with the cit ance of the drug out down The Stain as these shells seem to me more deadly + to take effect some than any I have

yet hears of Ishered be plad of you gave my in truchens how to act. shall not - in care have there men brimed until Thear from you incare you should think it a dois able to have a post nortim performed they are at Black Herse Bondje the C.C.S. MO. MI Certifica the copy gepelking to

Two who were bounded when brought Clouin strugging matter violety for health + complaining of most interse abdominal pain. The pupil's was widely chlated the prelic very thready + the lips pute bloodless one man had an evaluation of the bowels with great violence to Interes was the pain that I had to administer marfia Both cases chied within 45 mins of their being gassed Their wounds bee not of a nature to cause death at any wet to Ind daily The cases be anylit down last night we in a condition of collapse that the appearance of arm him man. The cases branghit down this evening were in-merhid cout rast. Stryphy redutty but in possession of all then facultion also the I hall which carried the motor Cases deems according to what and go I can get to have burst with candelearce. face. The man in the vicinity thappet it was in this bag

Report compiled on 4 September 1916 on the effects of gassing on the men in the trenches

The report reads:

To ADMS HH1 4.9.16

25th Division

We have had 7 cases of gas shell poisoning during the last 24 hours – 3 of whom died. One man died within 15 mins (I was unable to find any wound whatever). The other two died within 45 mins. The circumstances were as follows –

At 10 o'clock last night I was called to see 4 men who were brought down in a very exhausted condition & suffering from intense headache and some abdominal pain (one was very mild case and was returned to duty). A shell had burst (with a gentle explosion) within the entrance to the dugout. 3 have been evacuated whilst one died within 15 minutes & the other returned to duty today.

At 7.00 this evening two men were approaching the entrance of a dugout when a shell exploded which wounded both of them rather badly and threw a third, who was seated within the entrance, down the stairs.

The two who were wounded were brought down struggling rather violently for breath & complaining of most intense abdominal pain. The pupils were widely dilated, the [?] very thread & the lips quite bloodless. One man had an evacuation of the bowels with great violence. So intense was the pain that

I had to administer morphia. Both cases died within 45 mins of them being gassed. Their wounds were not of a nature to cause death – at any rate so suddenly.

The cases brought down last night were in a condition of collapse & had the appearance of drunken men. The cases brought down this evening were in – marked contrast – struggling violently but in possession of all their faculties. Also the shell which caused the latter cases seems according to what information I can get to have burst with considerable force – the men in the vicinity thought it was a whiz bang.

As these shells seem to me more deadly & to take effect sooner than any I have yet heard of I should be glad if you gave instructions how to act.

I shall not have these men buried until I hear from you in case you should think it advisable to have a post mortem performed. They are at the CCS Black Horse Bridge.



Campbell Avenue Tobermory Street

Leipzig Salient

The complex of trenches and military installations around Authuille, and just west of the German front line and the Leipzig Salient, in 1916. Some positions recorded in the War Diary extracts for around the time that William Thackwray died have been indicated. Authuille is approximately 4½km directly west of Pozières.

Source: http://www.tpkaraoke.co.uk/reports/ww1.html

William Thackwray was buried at Blighty Valley Cemetery just to the south of Authuille. Blighty Valley was the name given by the Army to the lower part of the deep valley running down South-Westward through Authuile Wood to join the river between Authuile and Aveluy; a railway was carried along it soon after July, 1916, and it was for some time an important (though inevitably a dangerous) route. The upper part of the valley was called Nab Valley. Blighty Valley Cemetery is almost at the mouth of the valley, a little way up its northern bank. Blighty Valley Cemetery was begun early in July 1916, at the beginning of the Battle of the Somme, and used until the following November. [CWGC]



THACKWA

John.

Medal

VICTORY

BRITISH

Theatre of War first served in

Date of entry therein

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The Thackwray family grave in Neston Cemetery records the death of George (31 March 1948, aged 84) and Eliza (died 7 March 1957, aged 89), William's parents. Below this it notes: 'Also William, son of the above, killed in action (France) 3rd Sept. 1916 aged 20 years'. His age is recorded incorrectly as he would have been just 22 when he died.

THACKWRAY, Pte. John William, 221. 10th Bn. Cheshire Regt. 3rd Sept., 1916. Age 22. Son of George and Eliza Thackwray, of 15, Olive Rd., Neston, Birkenhead. I. D. 25.

Extract from Grave Registration

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

> National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966

THACKWRAY George of 27 Gladstone-road Neston Cheshire died 31 March 1948 at Clatterbridge Hospital Poulton-cum-Spital Cheshire Probate Liverpool 12 May to Eliza Thackwray widow. Effects £893 8s. 3d.

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Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In June 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 often paid. John William Thackwray (recorded here as Thackway) had accrued a credit of £1 17s 8d; George Thackwray, John's father, received this also the £9 War Gratuity. The total payment, £10 17s 8d, is approximately equivalent to a *labour value* (ie wages) of about £1650 in 2016.

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.

Of Thomas Thackwray's siblings:

Lavinia Thackwray was born in Childer Thornton, near Hooton, on 1 April 1887. She married carter/coal merchant Thomas Woodhouse (born 9 May 1885) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in July / September 1906 and in the 1911 census they were recorded as living on Bridge Street, Neston, with their two children, James Henry (4, born 31 March 1907) and William (1, born 7 May 1909). Lavinia was then 24 and Thomas was 25. It is believed that they had a daughter, Phyllis L Woodhouse and that, in 1916, the family may have lived in Staffordshire. At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September) they were living at 'Corona' on Burton Road, Neston; Thomas was recorded as *Neston Postman No. 1549* and William, a widow, was a master painter and decorator. One line of the Register, possibly the record of Phyllis, is redacted (May 2018) but with them in the household was widow Alice Medcalfe (born 6 October 1863), noted as being incapacitated.

Thomas Woodhouse died, aged 80, in mid-1965 and Lavinia, aged 89, in mid-1976.

Albert Thackwray was baptised in Bromborough on 27 July 1890. In the 1911 census he was 20, single and a general labourer at a ship builder's and a boarder in Lower Tranmere. He died on Wirral in mid-1949 aged 58. It is not known whether he married. Albert has not been located in the 1939 Register.

Emily Thackwray was born in Bromborough in mid-1892. Emily married Albert Evans in early 1912 at a Civil Marriage on Wirral and she died in mid-1966 aged 74. Albert Evans was a brother of Edwin Evans who won the DCM whilst serving with the Canadian Infantry in WW1 and was killed in action in France on 27 September 1918 [see **30: Edwin Evans**]. Edwin Evans and John William Thackwray, both of whom died in action, were therefore brothers-in-law. Albert and Edwin Evans went to Canada in search of employment sometime in or around 1911; it is possible that Edwin had gone there before the UK census in April and that Albert followed sometime after. It is believed that Edwin settled in Montreal but that Albert returned to Neston and, initially, worked at the colliery and served in WW1. Emily and Albert Evans had at least five children:

Albert E	born July / September 1912
Emily	born early 1915
William	born early 1917
Mildred	born April / June 1921
John	born early 1925

Albert Evans snr may have died in early 1949 aged 61 and it is believed that Emily died in mid-1966. They have not been located in the 1939 Register.

Ethel Thackwray was born in Neston on 16 July 1896 and she was baptised at Neston Parish Church on 9 August.

Ethel married Thomas Ernest Rixon jnr (born 23 May 1895) at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in early 1921. Thomas Rixon was the son of joiner Thomas Ernest and Ada Lily Rixon of Birkenhead. It is believed that they had one son, Douglas Edward Rixon who was born on 10 April 1929; he married Jean Skinner at Christ Church, Port Sunlight, in mid-1950 and died in early 2006.

At the time of the 1939 Register Ethel, Thomas and Douglas were living at 61 Greendale Road in Port Sunlight where Thomas was recorded as *machine operator, soap and glycerine*.

It is unknown when Thomas died but Ethel died in late 1974 aged 78.

Maggie (Margaret) Thackwray's birth was registered in late 1901. She married Albert Gilbert at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in late 1937 and she died, in the Birkenhead area, in late 1983 aged 82. She has not been located in the 1939 Register.

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle? - Only the monstrous anger of the guns. Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle

Can patter out their hasty orisons. No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor bells; Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs, -The shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells; And bugles calling for them from sad shires.

What candles may be held to speed them all? Not in the hands of boys but in their eyes Shall shine the holy glimmers of goodbyes. The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall; Their flowers the tenderness of patient minds, And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds.

> "Anthem for Doomed Youth" Wilfred Owen (1893 - 1918)

