## 86: William Hughes Tozer

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: W. H. Tozer

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 20th Bn. London Regiment

Service Number: 5556 Date of Death: 07 September 1916 Age at Death: ?

Buried / Commemorated at: Neston Cemetery, Raby Road, Neston

Additional information given by CWGC: None

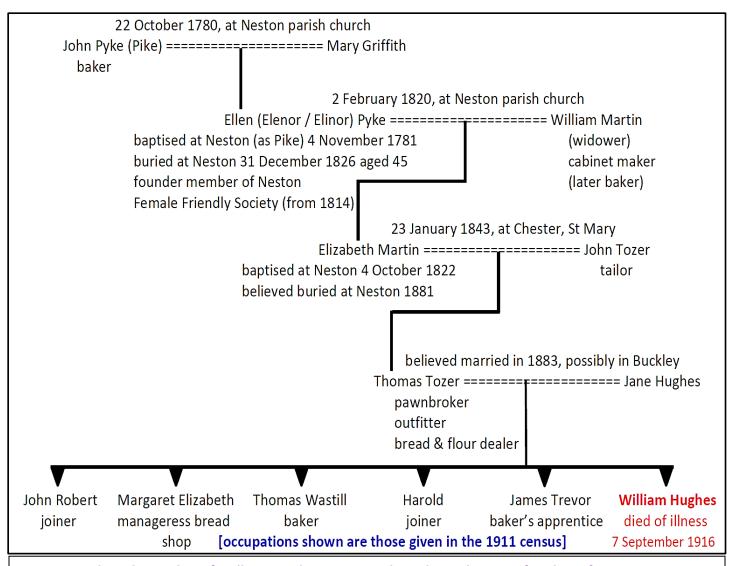
William Hughes Tozer was the sixth, and final, child of Thomas and Jane Tozer (née Hughes) of Neston. Thomas Tozer was a son of publican John and Elizabeth Tozer who kept the Coach & Horses in Neston where John had, previously, been recorded as a carrier. Thomas is known also to have served on the District Council.

With strong connections to Neston Female Friendly Society Elizabeth Tozer (née Pyke) was descended from the Society's founder-member Ellen (Elinor) Pyke and an abbreviated lineage of the family is shown on the following page.

William's brother, James Trevor Tozer, enlisted in the Army Reserve in August 1916 and, as a baker, served with the 57<sup>th</sup> Field Bakery (and was transferred to the 488 Coy. Royal Army Service Corps. [Service Number 295477]) but may not have seen service abroad. Another brother, Thomas Wastill Tozer, was also recorded as being a Private when he attended William's funeral in September 1916 and he is known to have served with the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment (Service N°. 243992).

William Tozer was baptised at Neston 9 October 1896 when his father was recorded as a pawnbroker and in the 1901 census Thomas was a 'pawnbroker and outfitter'. In 1901 they were living, as they had been in 1891, on Neston High Street:

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1901 census (extract) – F	High Street, Nesto	on	
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Jane	39		born Buckley
John R.	16	born Buckley	
Margaret E.	15		born Neston
Margaret E. Thomas W.	15 12		born Neston born Neston
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Thomas W.	12		born Neston



The relationship of William Hughes Tozer to the Pyke and Martin families of Neston

Note: This is an abbreviated lineage which shows only selected individuals. William Hughes, the subject of this account, is shown in **red**.

Ellen Pyke had one other daughter, Sarah Martin, who married (in Liverpool on 13 May 1855) widower William Morrison, a joiner from Scotland. Sarah died at her home, the Old Vicarage, and she was buried at the Parish Church on 21 February 1891 aged 69. She had been a member of Neston Female Friendly Society for 47 year and had served as the Society's Benefit Stewardess. Sarah's daughter, Ann, married master mariner Louis Henry Pakenham Walsh in 1885 and two of their children were in military service in WW1:

- Robert Pakenham Walsh served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1918.
- Louis Pakenham Walsh served as Captain in the Cheshire Regiment, Royal Flying Corp and the RAF and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in January 1918.

In the 1911 census William's father, Thomas Tozer, is recorded with dual occupations - a 'pawnbroker & outfitter etc' and, added afterwards by the enumerator, a 'bread & flour dealer'. In that census William's sister, Margaret Elizabeth is shown as being the manageress of a bread shop - and two other siblings were employed in the business - so it appears that the family business had broadened:

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	dast B	E athday)	PARTI	CULARS :	s to MA	RRIAGE.			PROPESSI of Persons age	ON or OCCUPATION and ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in & Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.	
every Person, whether Member of	Pauliny.	W. 1.4			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of :—			oman the	Pen	ersonal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Hope.	(I) If born in the United Kindom, write the name of t	State whether :-	If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally	
Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who  1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwalling and was alive at midnight, or  2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.  o one else must be included.  or order of seleting names see Examples on back of Schelulab.	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor." "Boarder," or "Servant."	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or "Unitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	under of state : in mos "under or "one i		Write "Single," "Marrod," "Widowe," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."		on born of sont Mare of children write "No Column 7;  Children still Living.			show the precise branch of rule, Manufacture, &c.  y Trade or Manufacture, the cd work done, and the Article indi worked or dealt in should stated.  to 8 and Examples on back	This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly above in Co.l. 10 the question need not be answered here conjugrams. If employed by a poble body the confidence of	Write opposite the name of each purses engaged in any Trudo of Industry. (1) "Employer" (that is employing pressure other than domestic servately, and the working for an employer), or (that is mosher employer), and the supplication of the supplic	Write the words "At Home" opposite the	(2) If born in may other early the name of the Dependent Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.  (3) If born in a Fereign Country write the name of the Country write the name of the Country write the name of the Country of I born at son, write "At Son." Novr.—In the case of perso born elsewhere than in England Wales, state whether "Essident" "Visitoe" in this Country.	(2) "Naturalised British sub- ject," giving year of natu- ralisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality,	gn (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile," or "Feels minded," state the infirmi opposite that proposite the proposite that proposite that proposite the prop
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Although we do not have William's Service Record it was reported that William had enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in about September 1915 but was transferred to the 2/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion London regiment some time later.

The 2/20<sup>th</sup> (Blackheath and Woolwich) Battalion, London Regiment was a unit of the Territorial Force with their HQ at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath - this site was bombed during WW2 and the majority of their early records were destroyed.

On 24 June 1916 the Battalion landed at Le Havre but the newspaper report notes that William was taken ill after about three months on active service, rather than wounded ('whilst in the trenches contracted sickness'), and was brought back to Britain and died in Ruchill Hospital in Glasgow, probably very shortly before his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. No details of his illness and death are known and it is unclear as to why he was in Glasgow although Ruchill specialised in infectious diseases and fevers.

# Came Home to Die.

### Neston Soldier's Sad Fate.

It was with great regret that the news was received of the death of Private W. H. Tozer, which occurred at a hospital in Glasgow. He was the youngest son (aged 20) of Mr. and Mrs. T. Tozer, of Highstreet, Neston, and joined the R.A.M.C. twelve months ago. He was afterwards transferred to the London Regt., and had been on active service three months when he was taken ill and brought to this country, where, despite every care and attention, he passed away on Thursday. Although of a quiet disposition, he was highly esteemed, and his death at the early age of 20 years has caused much sorrow to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. An account of the funeral,

Birkenhead News - Saturday 16 September 1916



Private W. H. TOZER.

which took place at Neston on Tuesday,
appears in our County Edition.



The Tozer family grave in Neston Cemetery

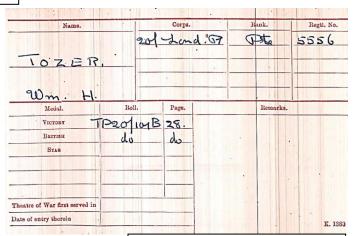


Liverpool Echo - Monday 11 September 1916

abide with me.).—Interred at Anfield Cemeter morrow (Tuesday), at 11 a.m.

TOZER—September 7, at Glasgow, from sickness, tracted while serving with the 2/20 London ment, aged 20 years, Private William Hill youngest son of Thomas and Jane Tozer, of street, Nesten. Funeral service at Neston Church, to-morrow (Tuesday), at 3.15 p.m.; plement at Nerson Cemeters, at 7.45. (Friends accept this—the only—intimation.)

Cheshire Observer - Saturday 16 September 1916



British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

Mr. and Mrs. Tozer and Family wish to Thank all those kind friends who sent floral tributes and kind letters of sympathy in their recent sad becavement. High-street, Neston.

# THE LATE PTE. W. H. TOZER Impressive Military Funeral. The funeral of the late I'm youngest son of Bughen Tozor. Ira. Thomas Tozer, of Highestreet, N ose doubt at Glassow is recorded ere, took place at Neston on Tocslay. The st part of the service was held at the rish Church, conducted by the Rev. II. Horris, cornte, who delivered a skert appropriate address. The interment ok place at the Neston Conservy. The life was covered with the Union Lack, and is borne by six branes, and exercised by firing, party, numbering 21 in all, from a 3rd Chreshing. Three willeys were first all the "Last Post" gounded at the grave-de. ere, took place at Neston on Tooslay. The chief monrous awre:—M ozer (father), Mrs. Hy. Norms ozer, John Robert Tozer, Pre. T ozer, and Mr. Jas. Trevor Tozer ozer, and Mr. Jas. Trevor Tozer ozer and Mr. Henry Tozer (unit

Crarkente). Ptc. Alf. Cassell (Canada). Rosson. Thos. Maylor, Thos. Bostock, Wm. Bres. Thos. Maylor, Thos. Bostock, Wm. Ptc. Harry Grundy, Mr. Sam. Hunder, Mr. Sam. Hunder, Mr. Sam. Hunder, Mr. Sam. Hunder, Mr. J. Woodward, Corpl. W. Libyd (Banckley). Messrs. J. H. Jones. Wm. Cowell, Ed. Price. Thos. John Williams, Geo. Pearson, Jus. Matthews, J. H. Jones, Wm. Cowell, Ed. Price. Thos. John Williams, Geo. Pearson, Thos. Williams, Wm. Evans, Chas. Matthews, Jas. Leadbetter. Wm. Garnisum-Taylor, Rd. Naylor, Jos. Millington, Ed. Jones, Walter Hughes, Jos. Newitt. Ptc. John Tudor, Ptc. W. Johnson, Ptc. Swanick, Ptc. J. Hancock, and many others.

Wreaths were sent by the following:—Father, Mother, and Brothers; Bessio and Harry; Aunty, Privates S. and R. Hughes; Uncle, Aunt, and Cousin (Buckley); Unck. Henry and Cousin (Queens Ferry); Cousin Ted. Maggic, and Hilda (Buckley); Unck. Henry and Cousin (Queens Ferry); Cousin Ted. Maggic, and Hilda (Buckley); Miss Lacy; Mr. and Mrs. Pearson; Mrs. Parry and Jessie; Little Jim Matthows: Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe; Mr. and Mrs. Cowell; George Pyke; Mr. and Mrs. Hunter; Mrs. E. Meadws; John Goiffiths; Mrs. Lundy and Miss. Davies: Kitty and Hilda Smith; Mrs. W. Bartley (Bridge-street): Mr. and Mrs. Helims: John Henry and C. Hughes; Mrs. Lewis Davies: Kitty and Hilda Smith; Mrs. W. Bartley (Bridge-street): Mr. and Mrs. Helims: John Henry and C. Hughes; Mrs. Lewis Davies: Kitty and Hilda Smith; Mrs. W. Bartley (Bridge-street): Mr. and Mrs. Helims: John Henry and C. Hughes; Mrs. Lewis Davies: Kitty and Jisha Smith; Mrs. W. Bartley (Bridge-street): Mr. and Mrs. Helims: John Henry and C. Hughes; Mrs. Lewis Davies: Kitty and Jisha Smith; Mrs. W. Bartley (Bridge-street): Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Lew; John Henry and C. Hughes; Mrs. Lewis Davies: Kitty and Hilda Smith; Mrs. W. Bartley (Bridge-street): Mrs. Campion; Mrs. Helimsed Henry and C. Hughes; Mrs. Lewis Lewis John H

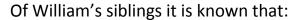
Birkenhead News - Wednesday 20 September 1916

Miniter (Charle Born 1889. — The Reveniles

BORN 1884 - DIED 1941

MEMORY

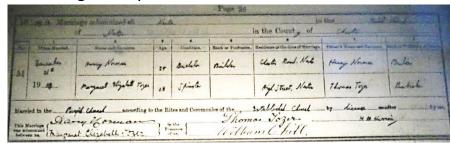
William's mother Jane Tozer died on 4 August 1924 aged 63 and his father, Thomas, died 18 October 1936, aged 78. They are buried at Neston Cemetery.



John Robert Tozer married Violet Charlotte Witt,

a housemaid living in Hoylake (born in Birkenhead) at St Hildeburgh Church, Hoylake, in late 1919. John died in mid-1941 aged 57 and Violet (born 13 August 1887) died in mid-1972 aged 84. They are buried at Neston Cemetery. John, with an interest in pigeon-racing, had been a well-known and successful member of The Neston & District Homing Society.

Margaret Elizabeth Tozer married Harry Norman, a builder (born Little Neston) who, in 1911 (when recorded as a joiner) was living at 'West View', Church Road,



Neston, at Neston Parish Church on 26 December 1914. Harry was then 29 and Margaret, of Neston High Street, was 28. Margaret's brother Thomas was a witness.

Thomas Wastill Tozer (born 2 May 1888) died in late 1964 aged 76. He served with the Cheshire Regiment during WW1 (Service No. 241202) and on 18 September 1917 was reported to have been wounded. In the 1939 Register, single, he was living on his own account at Neston Cross - no number was given for the building.

James Trevor Tozer (born 11 April 1893) married Ethel Williams in Liverpool in early 1921 and he died in late 1975 aged 82. In the 1939 Register, recorded as a bread baker in partnership, he was living with Ethel (born 27 February 1887) on Bridge Street - no number was recorded for the building. With them was Bessie (born 2 September 1925) in Neston, probably their only child <sup>1</sup> and a William Tozer (born 20 April 1892), a solicitor's junior clerk. The identity of this William has not been found - he was not a brother of James and no recorded birth has been found.

#### THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

DEATH OF PRIVATE W. H. TOZER
(NESTON).

The death took place last week of Private W.
H. Tozer, aged 20, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs.
Tozer, High-street Nestom. He joined the
R.A.M.O. in September, 1915, and was soon
afterwards transferred to the London Regiment.
He was drafted with this regiment to France in
June, 1916, and whilst in the trenches contracted
sickness. For a short time he was in the base
hospital in France, being removed later to a hospital in Glasgow, where he died. The deepest
sympathy is felt with the family, who have resided in Neston for many years. Private W.
Tozer had, as a boy, been a member of the Boy
Scouts of the Congregational Church, and was
very popular amongst the residents. The funeral
—the first military funeral for a number of years
in Neston—took place on Tuesday. Crowds of
people were sympathising onlookers, and many
more were in the church, noticeable amongst
them being widows and families who have also
lost dear ones in the war. The service was
very impressive. The Rev. H. M. Harriss officiated, assisted by Captain Scholey. The Rev. M.
H. Harris gave a brief but appropriate address.
The interment took place at Neston Cemetery.
The coffin, wrapped in a Union Jack, was conveyed in a hearse to the cemetery gates, and
from thre was carried by six bearers. A firing
party was present (numbering 21) from the Ches,
Regt., and three volleys were fired. The Last
Pest was also sounded. Sergeant Bee and two
constables directed the traffi whilst the cortege
passed through the streets. The mourners were
Mr T Tozer, father; Mrs A Norman, sister; Mr

John Robert, Private T Wastell, and Mr J Trovor Tozer, brothers; Mr H Norman, brother-in-law; Mr J Tozer, Colwyn Bav, uncle; Mr H Tozer, Queensferry, uncle; Mrs D Hughes, Buckley, aunt; Miss Stella Hughes, cousin; Mrs F. Panton. cousin; Mr. and Mrs. T. Mecham, cousins; Mr Joe Lamb, cousin; Mrs Pakenham-Walsh, cousin; Mrs E Jones, deceased's fignece. Following these were about sixty wounded soldiers from the Red cross Hospital, Neston, and representatives of general mourners were "Messrs. T. Finchess, E. Rooke, E. Chrimes, C. Chrimes, W. Okell, Hy. Norman, J. Pyke, C. E. Senior and J Thompson. Private Harry Grundy, Messrs J. R. Hughes, J. Thompson, R. Smith, J. Smith, and T. Smith, Private A. Cassell (Canada). Messrs T. Maylor, T. Bostock, J. N. Birch, L. Birch, A. D. Prentice, S. Hunter, Corporal W. Llovd (Buckley), Misses Jones, Messrs T. Jones (Chester-read), J. Woodward, J. Bell, G. Byans, Preston, J. H. Jones, W. Cowlell, B. Price, Private Hancock, Private Swanick, Private W. Johnson, Messrs T. Medvalf, J. Cross (Burlon), E. Quayle, J. Williams, G. Pearson, W. Evans, G. Matthews, J. Leadbetter, T. Williams, R. Naylor, J. Millington, J. Nevitt, J. Whiteway, E. Jenes. Beautiful wreaths were sent by relatives and friends. Whiteway, E Jones. Beau sent by relatives and friends

Chester Chronicle - Saturday 16 September 1916

The newspaper report notes that 'Miss E. Jones, deceased's fiancée' attended the

funeral - she may have been Emily Jones, a daughter of mines fireman Edward and Mary Jones of Ivy Cottage, Newtown, Little Neston.

Edward Jones, Emily's brother, died on 18 October 1916 whilst serving with the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment). [See 44: Edward Jones]



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 often paid. In August 1919 William's mother Jane, as sole, legatee, received a payment of outstanding wages of £6 15s 3d from the army and a War Gratuity of £3. This, a total value of £9 15s 3d, is equivalent to a labour value (wages) of around £1510 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Bessie probably married Joseph Logan in Chester in mid-1970.