

98: Samuel Bartley

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: Samuel Bartley

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: "B" Coy. 2nd/9th Bn. Manchester Regiment

Service Number: 352362

Date of Death: 11 June 1917

Age at Death: 19

Buried / Commemorated at: Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Gorre, Departement du Pas-de-Calais, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of William and Elizabeth Bartley of Burton

This Samuel Bartley should not be confused with Samuel Bartley of 8, Sunset Cottages, Ness; he was a Corporal in the Royal Regiment of Artillery and survived the war.

Samuel Bartley was, probably, the 5th child of William and Elizabeth Bartley of Burton and he was baptised at Burton on 5 September 1897 when William was a labourer.

In the 1891 census William (20, labourer) and Elizabeth (24) are recorded as married and boarding with Martha Ashton in Burton. Listed above William and Elizabeth in that census is Thomas Ashton, 3, recorded as a grandson of Martha. By the time of the 1901 census their family had extended and William was recorded as the head of household:

William Bartley	Head	M	29	Wagoner on Farm	Worker	Do	Do
Elizabeth Do	Wife	M	35			Do	Burton
Martha Ashton	Mother-in-law	Wid	62			Flintshire	Overton
Thomas Ashton	Stepson	S	13			Chester	Burton
William Bartley	Son	S	9			Do	Do
John Do	Son	S	8			Do	Do
Fred Do	Son	S	6			Do	Do
Alfred Do	Son	S	5			Do	Do
Samuel Do	Son	S	3			Do	Do
Walter Do	Son	S	1			Do	Do
Doris Do	Daughter	S	7 mo.			Do	Do

1901 census – Burton Road, Burton

William Bartley	29	wagoner on farm	born Neston
Elizabeth	35		born Burton
Martha Ashton	62	mother-in-law, widow	born Overton, Flintshire
Thomas Ashton	13	stepson	born Burton
William Bartley	9		born Burton
John	8		born Burton
Fred	6		born Burton
Alfred	5		born Burton
Samuel	3		born Burton
Walter	1		born Burton
Doris	7 months		born Burton

In both the 1901 and 1911 census Thomas Ashton is still recorded in the household; shown as a stepson in the 1901 census he was the illegitimate son of Elizabeth and was baptised at Burton on 8 January 1888 when Elizabeth was recorded as single woman. Referred to as a stepson in the 1901 census it is unlikely that Thomas Ashton was

William's son. William Bartley and Elizabeth Ashton married at Our Lady & St Nicholas & St Anne, the Liverpool Parish Church, in late 1890.

In 1911 William and Elizabeth's first child, William Bartley, 19, was a horseman on a farm and was boarding with farm bailiff John and Maria Crosby in Puddington.

Some details of the family are shown towards the end of this account.

Samuel was still at home with his parents and other siblings:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	William Bartley	Head	40	married	20				Waggoner on Farm	Farmer	Widow		Cheshire - Ness	
2	Elizabeth Bartley	Wife	45	"	20	9	9	0				Home	" Burton	
3	John Bartley	Son	19	Single					Labourer (Farm)	"	0		" "	
4	Frederick Bartley	"	17	"					Gardener (Farm)	"	4		" "	
5	Alfred Bartley	"	16	"					Labourer (Farm)	"	0		" "	
6	Samuel Bartley	"	14	"					School				" "	
7	Walter Bartley	"	12	"					School				" "	
8	Doris Bartley	daughter	11	"									" "	
9	Hilda May Bartley	daughter	7	"									" "	
10	Martha Ashton	Widow	71	Widow									Flintshire - Overton	1876
11	Thomas Ashton	son	23	Single					Labourer (Farm)	"	0		Cheshire - Burton	
12														
13														
14														
15														

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

I certify that—
 (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.
 (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared them with the total number of persons on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.
 Title of Enumerator *A. A. H.*

Total		
Males	Females	Total
47	4	11

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling)

Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (Kitchens, Tenants, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature *William Bartley*
 Postal Address *Burton, W. Norton, Cheshire*

F. Jones

1911 census (condensed) – Burton

William Bartley	40	waggoner on farm	born Ness
Elizabeth	45		born Burton
John	19	labourer, farm	born Burton
Frederick	17	gardener's labourer	born Burton
Alfred	16	labourer, farm	born Burton
Samuel	14		born Burton
Walter	12		born Burton
Doris	11		born Burton
Hilda May	7		born Burton
Martha Ashton	71	widow	born Overton, Flintshire
Thomas Ashton	23	labourer, farm	born Burton

William and Elizabeth had been married for 20 years and all nine children had survived (although the nine appears to include Thomas Ashton).

As the Service Record of Samuel Bartley has not been found it is not possible to detail his army service although it is believed that he enlisted in Chester with "B" Coy. 2/9th Battalion Manchester Regiment and that he was killed in action on 11 June 1917. At some time his original Service Number, 4927, was changed to 352362.

The 2/9th Battalion Manchester Regiment (the 'Ashton Pals') was formed at Ashton-under-Lyne in August 1914 as a second line unit.

In November 1914 it was placed under the command of the 198th Brigade in the 66th (2nd East Lancashire) Division. In May 1915 the troops moved to Crowborough, East

Sussex, and went on to Colchester in March 1916. In February and March 1917 the troops moved to France. The 66th Division was one of the much-maligned Territorial Divisions, somewhat despised and mistrusted by Kitchener and the Regular Army units, and at the outbreak of war were the least well equipped of Britain's military forces - in 1914 the Territorials were still not equipped with the Lee-Enfield rifle but still had old Japanese models. However:

By 16 March the entire Division had entrained, detrained, marched, inspected and assembled, and after a few days gathering stragglers and organising last minute details, the division was sent 'up the line' under the command of XI Corps, First Army – the 66th's first taste of 'real' war.

The Division found itself holding the line in the GIVENCHY sector. Its strength lay in the 'spirit of the men' rather than Regular Army training. And by God did it need such strength in this area. The Givenchy sector, near La Bassee, was foul panorama of depressingly flat coalfields and shell holes, interspersed with conical slagheaps and wrecked mine heads that made excellent defensive bastions for the Germans. During 1915 Givenchy had been at the centre of fierce fighting but by 1917 it was a quiet, miserable, and forgotten sector.

The Division's first task was to create some semblance of order – the trench system was a flooded and destroyed shambles that relied on isolated forward outposts, wire and Machine Guns, that was described as 'unattackable and indefensible' by FG Guggisberg, the Divisional CRE. Guggisberg was a remarkable man who was branded a rascal and a dangerous maverick by British society after the war. He was also the last British WW1 general to have a statue raised to him.

It is the nature of military history and historians to concentrate on battle but the reality of the Western Front was that soldiers spent very little of their time actually engaged in combat, and most of it 'holding the line'. 'Lineholding' (or 'Goalkeeping' as it was known) was an unglamorous but essential task that was never-ending. In order to understand what this entailed it's important to understand the nature of trenches and trench warfare. 'Trenches' are not channels dug into the ground in order to provide protection for troops. They were in fact vast cities containing millions of men and requiring all the support, maintenance, administration and infrastructure of any metropolis, but considerably magnified. Unlike a 'normal' city most of this activity took place underground, at night, and under fire, necessitating the most elaborate methods of protection, camouflage, and deception.

The 66th Division spent its time here recovering communication trenches (of which 17,000 yards had been recovered by May), laying water supplies and telephone cable, and repairing the damage caused by Minenwerfers. They also laid tramways and light railways, and were constantly at work trying to drain the all-pervasive mud described as having a 'rare and gluesome tenacity'. The decision not to equip the 66th with a Pioneer battalion dramatically increased the workload, requiring the attachment of up to 300 infantry per Field Company – 900 men in all. This was not so much a 'Soldier's War' as an 'Engineers' and Navvies War'.

In addition whilst there was no actual 'fighting' as such on this sector preparations for offensive and defensive schemes had to be made. In the spring of 1917 there was reason to believe that the Germans would be retiring on this front as they had further south and extensive preparations were made.

These preparations included the construction of forward routes for infantry and wagons, all of which had to be differently sign-posted every 30 yards, allocated as up or down routes, and policed by Traffic Control. They also built fences and bridges, created gaps in the wire for

First World War buried or commemorated here. For much of the war, Gorre Chateau stood approximately four kilometres behind a section of the British front-line that ran northward along the Aubers Ridge from Givenchy-lès-la-Bassée to Festubert. From the end of the Battle of Festubert in May 1915 until the spring of 1918, this was considered a relatively 'quiet' sector. The village of Gorre was occasionally bombarded by German artillery during this period, but the chateau remained intact and its rooms were used as an officer's mess and headquarters for British units stationed in the area. The grounds of the chateau were also the site of several artillery emplacements, a rifle range and an improvised parade ground and football pitch. Throughout 1916 and 1917 British troops could be seen drilling in the fields next to the chateau or unloading supplies from barges on the La Bassée Canal, which runs just south of the village. The British section of the cemetery was used by infantry and artillery units stationed in the area until April 1918, when the relative quiet of the sector was shattered by the German Spring Offensive and Gorre became a support post close behind the front line during the Battle of Estaire. [Adapted from: <https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/65500/GORRE%20BRITISH%20AND%20INDIAN%20CEMETERY>]

ROLL OF HONOUR.
 BARTLEY—In loving birthday remembrance of our dear son Sam, killed in action, June 11, 1917. When sad and weary I hear him whisper "Mother, Father and Mother."
 BARTLEY—In treasured birthday remembrance of my brother Sam, killed in action, June 11, 1917, aged 19 years. Some day, some time, we shall meet again. Jack in France. Dickson.

Liverpool Echo - Saturday 28 July 1917
 The second notice was by Jack (John), Sam's brother, who was also serving in France.

Name.	Corps.	Rank	Regtl. No.
BARTLEY Samuel.	Manch R	Pte	352 362
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	H/1/104 ^B 4	1072	
BRITISH	do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920



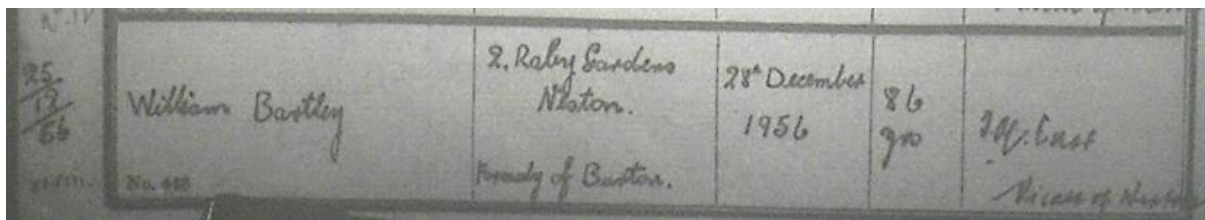
The CWGC headstone of Samuel Bartley at Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Calais, France Source: <http://ashtonpals.webs.com/>

Some details are known of Samuel Bartley's siblings and parents:-

Elizabeth Bartley, Samuel's mother, 67, was buried at Burton on 29 November 1934. This was nine months after the death of her son, Thomas Ashcroft.

William Bartley (born 17 October 1871), Samuel's father, was recorded as living with widow Jane Ashton (born 25 October 1896) at 2 Raby Gardens (off Tannery Lane), Neston in the 1939 Register. William was a retired builder's labourer and Jane was the widow of Thomas Ashton, William's stepson (Elizabeth Bartley's illegitimate son). Thomas Ashton had married Jane Smith at a Civil Marriage on Wirral in early 1921 but Thomas died on 17 February 1934 aged 45 and was buried at Neston Cemetery. In the 1939 Register, three lines of the entry, the records of three children of Thomas and Jane, have been redacted.

William Bartley died on 25 December 1956, aged 86, and was buried at Burton on 28 December. When he died he was still living at 2 Raby Gardens, Neston.



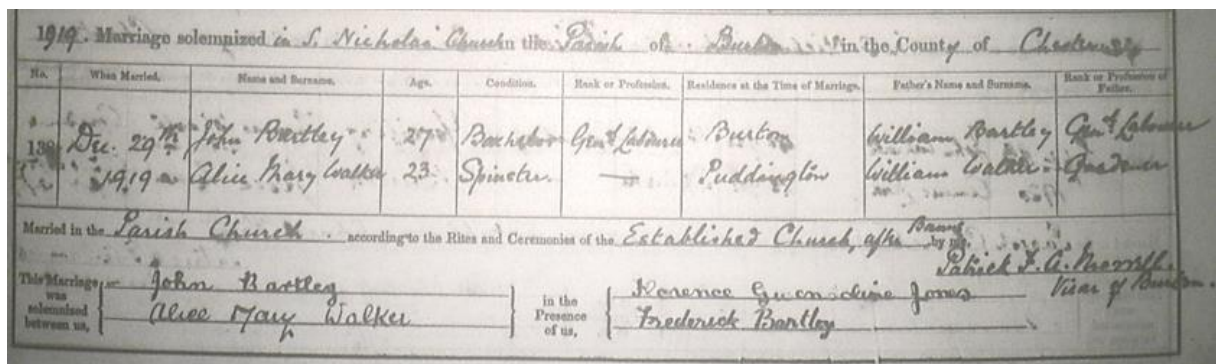
Jane Ashton, the wife of Thomas died on 26 February 1982, aged 84, and is buried with him at Neston Cemetery. Jane outlived Thomas for 48 years.

William, the first child of the marriage of William and Elizabeth, was baptised at Burton on 31 May 1891 when his father was recorded as a farm labourer.

William may have married Wilhelmina Lawton (born 25 December 1891) at St Peter's Church, Heswall, in early 1920 but nothing further is known of him although he may have died in mid-1964 aged 72 (he appears to have been born in January 1891).

William has not been located in the 1939 Register although Wilhelmina was at 'Hillside Farm', Dawstone Road, Lower Heswall with bricklayer John and Mary E Smith. One line of the Register has been redacted, probably the record for a child of William and Wilhelmina. It is not known when Wilhelmina died.

John Bartley was born on 25 September 1892 and baptised at Burton on 30 October 1892 when his father William was a farm labourer. John, 27, a general labourer, married Alice Mary Walker (born 11 November 1896), 23, of Puddington, at Burton on 29 December 1919. William Bartley was then recorded as a general labourer and Alice's father, also William, was a gardener. John's brother Frederick was a witness.



John and Alice's first child, Lawrence, was baptised at Burton on 22 August 1920 when John was a general labourer and the family was living at Woodland Cottage, Puddington. Lawrence married Jean Lamb at St Peter's Church, Heswall, in mid-1945. A second child, Geoffrey, was baptised at Burton on 1 October 1922; John was still a general labourer living in Puddington. John's first daughter, Joan, was baptised at Burton on 31 January 1926 when John was a bricklayer of Puddington. Brian, another son, was baptised at Burton on 4 December 1927; John was still a bricklayer and the family was living at New Cottages in Puddington.

In the 1939 Register John, a foreman bricklayer, and Alice were living on Milner Road, Heswall. Two further lines of the Register have been redacted.

Also in the household in 1939 was widow Sarah Walker (born 6 May 1866), presumably Alice's mother. Sarah died, aged 77, in late 1944.

John Bartley died in early 1970 but it is not known when Alice died.

Frederick Bartley was born on 12 April 1894 and baptised at Burton on 12 May when William was recorded as a labourer. Frederick married Ethel Gronnow (born 2 September 1896) at St Mary's Church, Brymbo, Wrexham in mid-1920; Frederick was a builder and, on 21 November 1920 when he and Ethel were living at 34 Keithley Street in Birkenhead, they baptised son Samuel at Burton ¹. It is believed that this Samuel Bartley later lived at Rose Cottage in Burton and died on 6 October 1966 (buried at Burton on 10 October) aged 45. It is believed that Frederick and Ethel had at least two further children, Leonard (registered in Birkenhead in early 1923) and Dorothy May Bartley (registered in Birkenhead in mid-1924). Neither of these children was baptised at Burton.

The 1939 Register records Frederick, a builder's labourer, and Ethel living at Rake Farm Cottage in Burton; two further lines of the Register entry have been redacted.

Frederick died on 6 May 1967 (buried at Burton on 10 May) aged 73; he was then living at Rake House Cottage. It is not known when Ethel died.

Alfred Bartley was born at Burton on 10 January 1896 and had a private baptism on 23 February when his father was recorded as a carter. Alfred married Winifred Mary Roberts (born 23 September 1897) at a Civil Marriage in Chester in April / June 1925 and it is uncertain as to whether they had any children. In the 1939 Register (29 September) Alfred, a builder's labourer, and Winifred were living at Bank Hey in Burton.

¹ No record of the registration of the birth has been found although a Stanley Bartley was registered in Birkenhead in late 1921, the mother being recorded with the maiden name of Gronnow or Grounow.

Alfred died in July / September 1976 and Winifred died in early 1982.

Walter Bartley was born on 2 June 1899 and was baptised at Burton on 16 July when William was a labourer. Walter married Gladys May Pinnegar (born 28 March 1899), 21, of Puddington at Burton church on 11 January 1921. Walter, 21, was a labourer and his father was also recorded as a labourer.

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1921. Marriage solemnized at St. Nicholas' Ch. in the Parish of Burton in the County of Cheshire.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
143	Jan. 11 th 1921.	Walter Bartley Gladys May Pinnegar	21yrs. 21yrs.	Bachelor Spinster	Labourer -	Burton Puddington	William Bartley William Pinnegar	Labourer Agricult. Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, after which the

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Walter Bartley and Gladys May Pinnegar in the Presence of us, Archibald Laws, William John Pinnegar, Hilda May Bartley Richard T. G. Howell Vicar of Burton

Gladys' father, William, was an agricultural labourer. Their first child, Harold, was baptised at Burton on 26 June 1921 when Walter was recorded as being a farm labourer of Puddington. A second child, Raymond Walter, was born on 12 August 1923 and he was baptised at Burton on 30 September when Walter, a labourer, was living at Bishop Wilson's Cottage in Burton. A daughter, Doris Llewellyn Bartley, was baptised at Burton on 8 January 1928 when Walter was a horseman living in Puddington.

In the 1939 Register Walter, a *horseman on farm*, was living at 2 Leaswood Cottages in Willaston with Alice and Raymond. Two lines of the record have been redacted but it was noted that Walter was a voluntary ARP Warden (No. 11591).

Gladys Bartley died on 15 January 1970 and she was buried at Burton on 22 January, aged 70, and her address was noted as 4 Morland Avenue, Little Neston. It is not known when Walter died.

Doris Bartley was baptised at Burton on 30 September 1900 when William was a labourer. Doris married Archibald Laws, a mechanic of Hawarden, on 3 February 1926 at Burton; Doris was 25, Archibald was 27, William Bartley was recorded as a labourer and Alfred Bartley and Hilda May Bartley were witnesses. Archibald's father, John, was a gardener. Archibald and Doris have not been located in the 1939 Register and nothing further is known of them.

Hilda May Bartley, Samuel's youngest sibling, was baptised at Burton on 6 November 1904 when William was a labourer. Hilda married John Edward Brocklebank, 27, a roadman of Burton, at Burton on 22 February 1936. Hilda was aged 31, William was recorded as a building labourer and William (Hilda's brother) was a witness. Nothing further is known of Hilda and John.