

109: George Palin

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

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: George Thomas Palin

Rank: Private

Battalion / Regiment: 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment

Service Number: 26477

Date of Death: 9 July 1916

Age at Death: 22

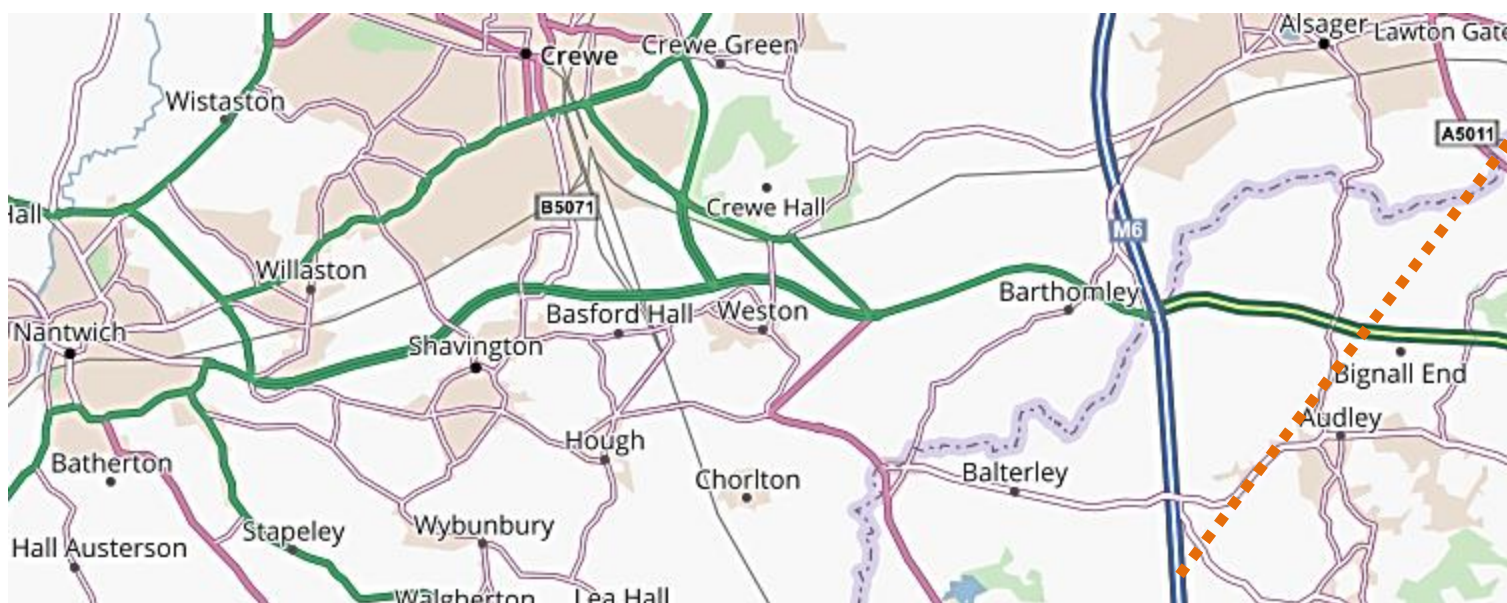
Buried / Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, Thiepval, Departement de la Somme, Picardie, France

Additional information given by CWGC: Son of Mr. T. and Mrs R. Palin, of Osborne Grove, Shavington, Crewe

In late 2018, when HomeTown Heroes was published, I was unaware of the identity of George Thomas Palin; the Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists just two casualties named 'Palin' for the Manchester Regiment [Palin, G & Palin, George Thomas] and neither had any known link to the Burton, Puddington or Neston area. In August 2020 I was contacted by a descendant of one of George's brothers and this has enabled me to construct this account of George. Originating from near Crewe, it still remains unclear why George came to Burton sometime before the war and it appears that his connection to the village was brief.

Note that the contrived page numbering of this account is necessary in order to retain continuity with the other accounts within the work.

George was the eldest child of railway goods' porter Thomas and Rhoda Palin and he was descended from a line of Palins who lived, primarily, around Shavington in Cheshire:



Shavington village is around 5km east of Nantwich and 4km south of Crewe. Some of the southern part of the district, south of the Nantwich – Hough road, lies within the parish of Wybunbury which adjoins, to the east, the parish of Hough. A short distance to the east is the Cheshire / Staffordshire border (shown in light purple with a dashed line) and the Cheshire / Shropshire border is just to the south. The western flank of the North Staffs Coalfield forms the eastern sector of this map extract with the old Audley Colliery, also called the Diglake Colliery, located at Bignall End just to the north of Audley. The Coal Measure rocks are separated from the red Triassic sandstones which underly the Cheshire Plain by a major fault, represented by the dashed orange line.

At the time of the 1911 census the population of Shavington was recorded as 1270 (now around 5000) and there were 289 inhabited houses of which eight were recorded as having a 'Palin' as the head of the family. In total, 37 of the inhabitants (3%) of Shavington were named 'Palin' and their occupations covered farming, the building trade, railway work and one was a 'motor attendant'.

[Source map : Michelin road map (https://www.viamichelin.co.uk/web/Maps/Map-Cheshire_East-United_Kingdom)

<p>m 7 August 1821, Wybunbury James Palin === Jane Austin</p> <p>1841 – aged 40, coal drawer, Wybunbury 1851 – aged 53, coal carrier, Wybunbury 1861 – aged 63, agricultural labourer, Wybunbury Jane died late 1869, aged 71, in the Nantwich area James died early 1876, aged 77, in the Nantwich area</p>	<p>Nine children are known with Thomas being the 4th eldest. Others (in order) were Mary, Ann, John, William, Sarah, Elizabeth, James and Jane</p>
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<p>m 16 May 1854, Wybunbury Thomas Palin === Mary Morrey</p> <p>baptised Astbury, Congleton, 4 January 1829 1851 – coal carrier, 22, Wybunbury 1861 – aged 32, farmer of 14 acres and carrier, born Astbury near Congleton 1871 – aged 42, carrier, Hough, born Astbury 1881 – aged 50, farmer (20 acres), Shavington, born Congleton 1891 – aged 60, farmer, Shavington, born Congleton 1901 – aged 67, farmer at Greenbank Farm, Shavington, born Shavington [age recorded inaccurately] Died 6 August 1902 aged 71 in Nantwich area Mary died April / June 1919 aged 83 in Nantwich area</p>	<p>Thomas and Mary had 8 children and Thomas jnr was their 6th child</p>
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<p>m April/June 1893, Nantwich area Thomas Palin === Rhoda Potts</p> <p>b 16 May 1871 1891 – aged 21, farmer's assistant (at home), Green Bank Farm 1901 – aged 32, farmer's son, born Shavington 1911 – aged 40, goods' porter, LNW Railway, Crewe, born Shavington 1939 Register – railway labourer, retired Thomas died early 1947, aged 75, in Crewe area Rhoda died, aged 58, in April / June 1928, Nantwich</p>	<p>All five children survived to adulthood</p>
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<p>George Thomas Palin</p> <p>b late August? 1893 bpt 17 Sept 1893 1911 – aged 17, unemployed waggoner, born Shavington d 9 July 1916, Trônes Wood</p>	<p>James Palin === Constance Clarke</p> <p>b 1 August 1897 1911 – aged 14, riddle maker d 10 March 1973, Northwich area 1939 Register – James a brickyard foreman, living at Carne-Brea, Audley Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme. Also in the household was George Clarke, widow, b 6 June 1862, engineer mechanical</p>	<p>m late 1926, Nantwich Emma Palin === William Yoxall b 28 October 1901, Shavington d April / June 1977, Congleton district 1939 register – living with widowed father, Thomas, at 12 Osborne Grove, Shavington</p>
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<p>William Palin === ?</p> <p>b 18 March 1895, Shavington d 23 May 1975, Congleton 1911 – aged 15, riddle maker 1939 register – railway labourer, living at 12 Osborne Grove, Shavington, with widowed father Thomas & widowed sister Emma Yoxall + (line redacted). William shown married but wife not recorded (name uncertain)</p>	<p>m April / June 1927, Nantwich area Alfred Palin === Doris Emily Kinsey b 24 August 1899, bpt 15 Oct 1899, Shavington d 1 September 1978, aged 79, Congleton district 1939 Register – living at 4 Clifton Avenue, Crewe, with Samuel & Minnie Kinsey, Doris' parents. Alfred 'cleaning for loco painters'</p>
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Abbreviated Palin lineage depicting only the primary members of the family considered within this account and their relationship to George Thomas Palin.

The dates 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911 relate to the census data of that year

Thomas Palin, George's father, was the fourth child of a Shavington farmer, also named Thomas, who had been born near Astbury, to the immediate south of Congleton, and it is worth considering briefly both him, and *his* father James.

James Palin – George's great-grandfather was born in Shavington and, named after his father, was baptised in neighbouring Wybunbury at St Chad's Church on 11 May 1800. On 7 August 1821 James married Jane Austin in this same church.

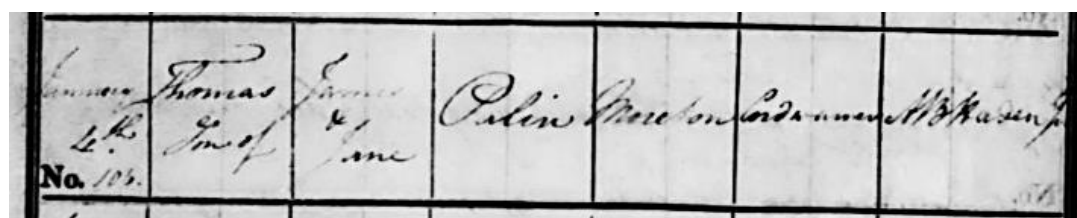
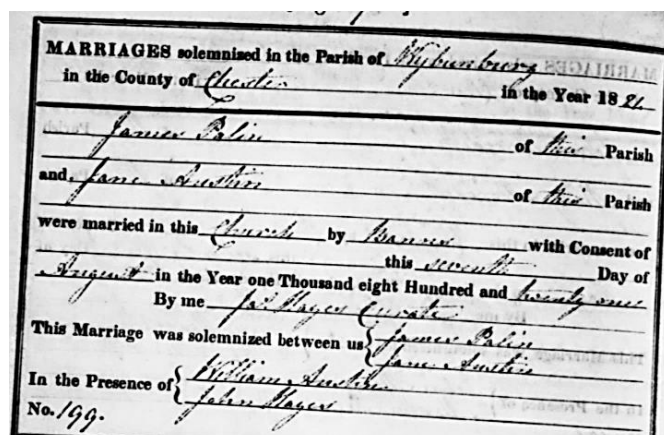
This church had always been structurally unstable and subject to subsidence and the main body of the building was demolished in 1833 and the inclined tower was partially straightened.

The earliest census record, 1841, records James as a 'coal drawer' living in Wybunbury; it is probable that he worked in the mining district near Audley, a short distance to the east, where there were numerous mines. A 'coal drawer' was an underground worker assisting the coal-face miners by removing the worked coal in tubs or waggons to the bottom of the shaft. Close to the village of Bignall End was the largest coalmine, the Audley Colliery which was known also as the Diglake Colliery. Mining here had commenced in 1733 and by the early 19th century it had become a large-scale industry employing around 300 men.

On 14 January 1895 a torrent of water rushed into the mine when old underground flooded workings were breached; around 250 men were underground at the time and 77 (possibly 78) miners were drowned. Only three bodies were recovered, with efforts to retrieve the others being hampered by floodwater. 73 bodies are still entombed underground.

Interestingly, it seems that shortly after James' marriage to Jane Austin in August 1821 they were living at Moreton, just south of Congleton (and around 18km north-east of Wybunbury) as four children were born in this vicinity. Following their marriage their first child, Mary, was born in Shavington the following year and baptised at Wybunbury on 25 July 1822 - and James' occupation was recorded as 'shoe maker'. However, they had moved to Moreton by 1824 when Ann, their second daughter, was born at Odd Rode (the civil parish covering part of Moreton and Scholar Green) in that year. Ann died at Odd Rode in September 1825 and

John was born at Moreton in about 1826 followed by Thomas who was baptised at St Mary's Church in Astbury on 4 January 1829. It is not



The baptismal entry for Thomas Palin (4 January 1829) in the St Mary's, Astbury, Parish Register

known why James and Jane moved here although James' occupation on Thomas' baptism entry is 'cordwainer' (shoe maker) so he was still following that trade.

The family was still living in the Astbury area when son William was baptised at Wybunbury on 24 April 1831 and James is again recorded as a cordwainer; the register entry indicates

also that they were living in the Brownlow area of Moreton. By early 1834, however, the family was living in Wybunbury and James had changed his occupation from being a shoe maker to working in the coal mines.

Daughter Sarah was baptised at Wybunbury on 23 February with, subsequently, the baptisms of Elizabeth (4 December 1836), James (8 December 1839, but died and was buried 12 December 1839)

February 23 No. 1031	Sarah James daughter and of Jane	Palin	Wybunbury	Jagger	St Hayes buried
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The baptismal entry for Sarah Palin (23 February 1834) in the St Chad's Parish Church, Wybunbury, Parish Register

and Jane (2 June 1842). Each of the baptismal records notes that James was a 'jagger', an underground-worker in charge of the 'jags' or train of trucks in a coal mine.

James Palin	40	Coal Drawer	4.
Jane	42		4.
Thomas	13		4.
William	10		4.
Sarah	7		4.
Elizabeth	5		4.

Extract of the 1841 census for Wybunbury showing the entry for James and Jane Palin and their family. Thomas, 13, was George Palin's grandfather. James was born in late 1798, so he would have been 42, and would have been married to Jane for almost 20 years. Three of their children had died by this date: Ann (buried September 1825 aged about 1); John (buried 28 October 1838 aged about 12); James (buried 12 December 1839 as an infant). William was to die in 1847 (buried 10 March 1847 aged 16) and Elizabeth died in 1857 (buried 4 August 1857 aged 21).

Mary Palin, the eldest daughter, was a female servant aged 18 in the household of Thomas Darlington, a farmer in nearby Hough. Ann, the second daughter, aged 15, was also a female servant in a farmer's household in Byley cum Gatehouse north of Middlewich.

In the 1851 census James, and several other men in the Wybunbury district (including Thomas Palin), were recorded as 'coal carrier', an ambiguous term which could be applied to 'coal drawers' or to surface workers who moved coal from the pithead to the coalheaps.

When his son, Thomas, married in May 1854 James was still recorded as a 'carrier'. At the time of the 1861 census James and Jane Palin were still living in Wybunbury between the Hough Road and Moss Lane. James, 63, was then an agricultural labourer.

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
Wybunbury									
No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb
					Males	Females			
46		James Palin	Head	M	53		Coal Carrier	Cheshire, Darlington	
		Jane Palin	Wife	M		52	Wife	Cheshire, Blakenhall	
		Thomas Palin	Son	M	22		Coal Carrier	Cheshire, Wybunbury	
		Jane Palin	Daughter			2	Daughter	Cheshire, Wybunbury	

Extract of the 1851 census for Wybunbury

It is presumed that Mary Palin had married. Sarah Palin, 17, was a general servant in the home of consulting physician William M Brady and his family in Hospital Street, Nantwich. Sarah Palin had married Thomas Stubbs at St Mary & St Nicholas Church, Nantwich, in 1850 but they have not been found in the census returns. Elizabeth has also not been found in the census.

James Palin was buried at St Chad's, Wybunbury, on 14 June 1863 aged 63 and Jane died 28 November 1869, aged 71, in Shavington and was buried at St Chad's, Wybunbury, on 2 December 1869.

Thomas Palin snr – George's grandfather was the fourth child and second son of James and Jane Palin. Thomas (who will, in this account, be commonly referred to as Thomas snr to distinguish him from his son) was born in Astbury near Congleton in late 1828. His family had moved back to the Wybunbury area by early 1834 and was recorded there in the 1841 census when he was 13. By 1851, aged 22, he was a 'coal carrier' and probably working, as was his father, in the coal mines near Audley.

Thomas married 19-year old Mary Morrey at St Chad's Church, Wybunbury, on 16 May 1854. Whilst Mary signed the register Thomas made his mark – it appears that he was unable to sign his name. Thomas would then have been aged 25.

Page 222.

1854 Marriage solemnized by Banns in the Parish of Wybunbury in the County of Chester

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.
443	May 16 th	Thomas Palin	Fullage	Bachelor	Carrier	Wybunbury	James Palin	Carrier
		Mary Morrey	Spinster			Wybunbury	Richard Morrey	Farmer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, J. S. Hayes Vicar

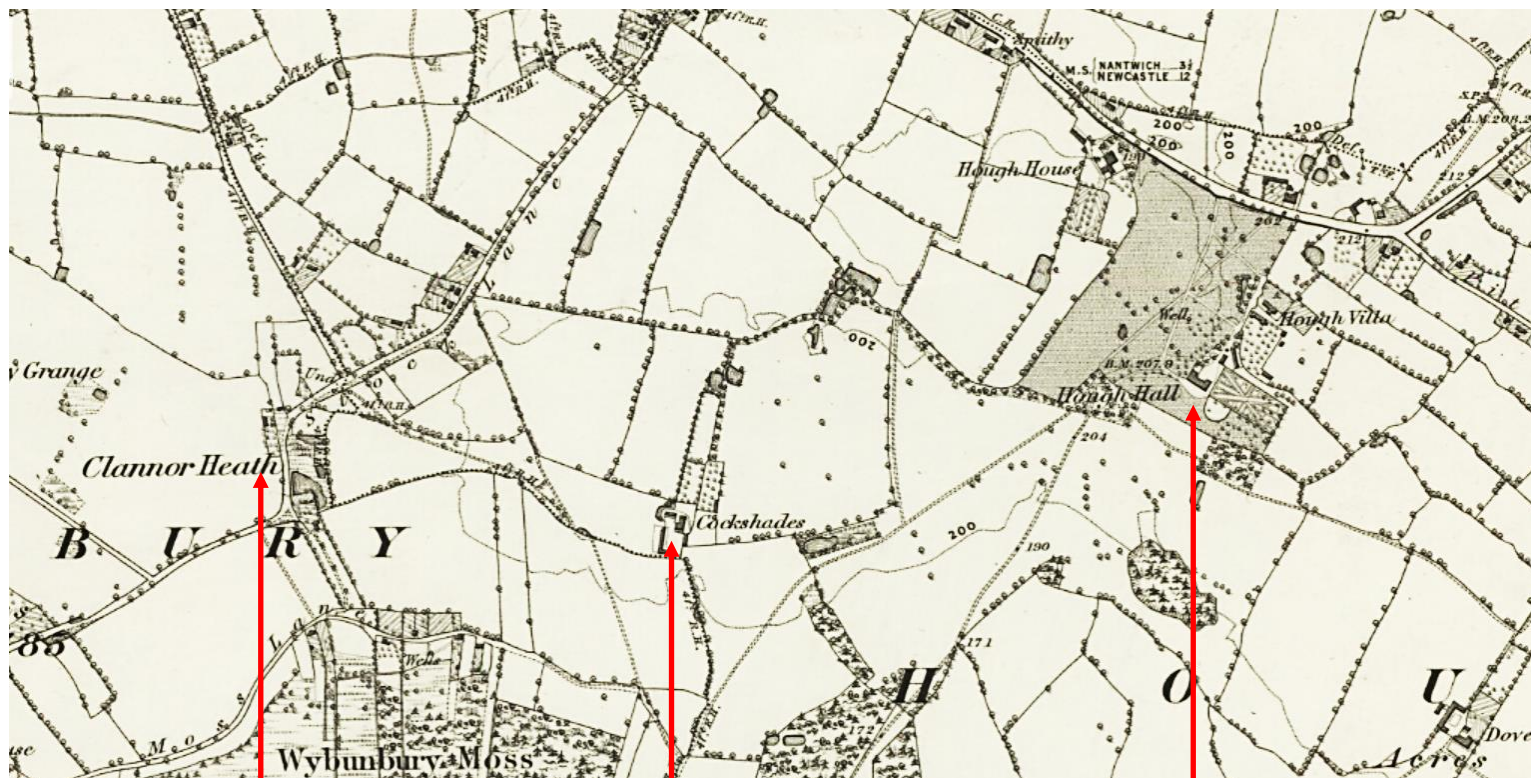
This Marriage was solemnized between us, Thomas Palin and Mary Morrey in the Presence of us, Thomas Darlington and Hannah Morrey

Mary Morrey – there were several families of that name in the Wybunbury area – was a daughter of Richard and Ann Morrey who farmed 30 acres and who, in 1851, were living at Holin House. Whilst Ann Morrey had been born in Shavington, Richard and their children had been born in Checkley, the rural district near Bridgemere and around 5km south-east of Wybunbury. A witness at the marriage was Mary's elder sister, Hannah.

In 1861 Thomas snr, 32, was farming just 14 acres to the south of Shavington village in the vicinity of Wybunbury Moss; there were several very small farms around here (others were 6, 17, 36, 12, 35, 4, 20 and 13 acres) although nearby Cockshades Farm was 116 acres.

Thomas Palin	Head	Mar	32	Farmer of 14 Acres & Carrier	Checkley, Audley
Mary D ^r	Wife	Mar	26		D ^r Checkley
Alma D ^r	Daughter		4		D ^r Hough
John D ^r	Son		1		D ^r Hough
Henry Gidman	Boarder	Mar	43	Ag. Lab ^r	D ^r Spurstow
Mary D ^r	Wife	Mar	47		Harpur Hill, Shavington

Extract of the 1861 census for the township of Hough in the Parish of Wybunbury. The census records this area as Lanner Heath, presumably a corruption of Clannor Heath. The agricultural labourer, Henry Gidman, who was boarding with the Palins probably assisted James on the small farm.



Clannor Heath, on the edge of Wybunbury Moss, with Stock Lane leading off to the NE and towards Shavington (off the map to the N)

Cockshades Farm

Hough Hall

OS 6 inch to 1 mile Cheshire LXII Surveyed: 1875 to 1876 Published: 1882

Approximate scale on this map extract:

0 metres 300

Thomas may have been a small-scale dairy farmer, and possibly raised pigs, but enhanced his income by also being a 'carrier'; as noted previously, several other local men were recorded as 'coal carrier' at this time and were, presumably, working in the coal mining district near Audley.

It is not clear, in 1871, whether Thomas snr was still farming as the census records his occupation solely as 'carrier' so it may be presumed that he was still working at the coal mines near Audley:

Thomas Palin	Head	Mar	42	Carrier	Old Oldbury
Mary " "	Wife	Mar	36		Old Oldbury
Alina " "	Daughter	Unm	15		Old Hough
John " "	Son		12	Scholar	Old " "
Ann " "	Daughter		9		Old " "
James " "	Son		6		Old " "
Mary " "	Daughter		4		Old " "

Extract of the 1871 census for the Township of Hough

The census is imprecise on location but the Palins seemed to be living south-east of Shavington in a cottage close to Hough Hall

By 1881 Thomas was, again, a farmer - and now with 20 acres - in one of the Birch Cottages close to Shavington Hall. Shavington Hall, in Shavington Park, is a small country house which was built in 1877 for the Earl of Shrewsbury in a Tudor Revival style.

Thomas Palin	Head	Mar	50		Farmer (20 acres)	D.	Conington
Mary Do	Wife	Mar	44			D.	Cheshley
Ann Palin	Daughter	Mar	20		Serv (Dome)	Cheshire	Hough
James Do	Son	Mar	16		Serv on Farm	D.	D.
Mary Do	Daughter		14			D.	D.
Thomas Do	Son		10		Scholar	D.	D.
Daniel Do	Son		4		Do	D.	D.
Sarah Do	Daughter		4			D.	Shavington
						Salisbury	Sharnbrook

Thomas jnr, George's father, had been born just six weeks after the 1871 census and in 1881, aged 10, would have been expected to assist around the small farm. However, Thomas snr was being assisted by son James and daughter Ann; if, as is likely, this was a dairy farm Ann would have been involved with the milking and quite probably the making of butter and cheese.

Alma, the oldest child of Thomas snr and Mary (aged 25 in 1881 she had been baptised at Wybunbury on 16 August 1856) was a general servant for farmer John and Ellen Sumner at Churton's Farm in the small settlement of Edgeley, south of Whitchurch. Alma never married and she died on 6 February 1932 in Crewe at the age of 75 with the Probate on her Will being granted on 29 August. Alma lived at Main Road, Shavington, and her Will left £157 15s to 'John Mellor and Thomas Mellor, wagon examiners'; these were the two eldest sons of Alma's sister, Mary Jane Mellor, and they probably worked for the railway.

John, the oldest son of Thomas snr and Mary, was also living away from home at the time of the 1881 census and he was recorded, aged 21, as a farm servant in the home of Hannah and George Acton Timmis in Shavington; George lived at Dairy House Farm and was farming 148 acres.

In 1891, now aged 60, Thomas snr was the farmer at Green Bank Farm where he was being assisted by his unmarried sons James Richard (26, baptised Hough 6 April 1865) and Thomas jnr, later the father of George Palin (21, probably born April / June 1871). The census does not record the size of Green Bank Farm but, recorded also at the farm was 4-year old grandson Thomas – he was John Palin's eldest child.

75	Green Bank Farm	1	Thomas Palin	Head	60	Farmer	X	to Blakenhall
			Mary Do	Wife	66		X	to Conington
			Alma Do	Daughter	25	Farmer's Daughter		to Cheshley
			Ann Do	Daughter	21	Do		to Hough
			James R. Do	Son	26	Farmer's Assistant		to Do
			Mary Do	Daughter	24	Farmer's Daughter		to Do
			Thomas Do	Son	21	Farmer's Assistant		to Do
			Sarah Do	Daughter	19	Scholar		to Do
			Thomas Do	Grand Son	4			to Shavington
46	The Groves	1	Henry Mellor	Servant	21	Farm Servant		to Chester

Having married Sarah Jane Manley of Audlem in mid-1886 John, 30, was now the farmer at Shavington Hall Farm where he and Sarah had their 1-year old son John. Sadly, however, John's younger brother Daniel (who had been baptised as William Daniel Palin on 22 March 1874 at St Chad's, Wybunbury) had died in late 1884 aged 10.

In 1901 Thomas snr (recorded as being aged 67 although he would have been 72) was still farming at Green Bank Farm with his three unmarried daughters and grandson Thomas whom, recorded as a 'cowboy ag. cattle', indicates that this was a dairy farm:

100	Green Bank Farm	Thomas Palin	Head	M	67	Farmer			Shavington
		Mary	Wife	M	65				Shavington
		Alma	Daughter	S	44		employed at home		
		Annie	Daughter	S	38				
		Sarah	Daughter	S	22				
		Thomas	Grandson	S	14	Cowboy ag. cattle			Shavington

The census suggests that Green Bank Farm was located in the vicinity of Stock Lane and the Newcastle Road in Shavington and it may not be the present-day Greenbank Farm which is located on the Crewe Road and well north of Shavington.

James Richard Palin, the fourth child of Thomas snr and Mary, had married Sarah Ellen Moore in the Nantwich district in late 1895. In 1901 he was recorded, aged 36, as a 'labourer (steel works)' with Sarah (30) and children Miranda Moore (11), Mary (4), James R (2) and Alma (10 months) at Rope Yard, Shavington. The identity of Miranda Moore is enigmatic as, whilst she appears to be Sarah's illegitimate daughter, no previous or subsequent record of her has been found. Both Alma (2) and James Richard (3) Palin died in July / September 1902 and another daughter, Sarah Ellen, was born in April / June 1903. Sarah Palin died, aged 36, in April / June 1906 and in 1911 widow James, 44, was recorded as a labourer with the LNW Railway living at Rope Lane, Shavington, with surviving daughters Mary (14) and Sarah Ellen (8). The census also records that, of James' 5 children, two had died.

James Richard Palin died, aged 64, in the Nantwich district in July / September 1929.

Mary Jane Palin (24), the fifth child and third daughter of Thomas snr and Mary Palin had married labourer - he worked on a farm - Henry Mellor (24) on 26 January 1893 at St Chad's Church, Wybunbury. Henry and Mary went on to have four sons, John, Thomas, Harry and James. Mary died in late 1929 aged 62.

Thomas Palin snr died on 6 August 1902 (with a recorded age of 71 although he would have been 73) in the Nantwich area and was buried at St Chad's Church, Wybunbury, on 11 August.

Thomas' Probate records that his estate was valued at £948 11s 2d which is equivalent to a labour value of around £383 300 in 2020.

Page 248

Printed and Published by Hadden, West & Co., 77, Strand, London.

BURIALS in the Parish of <u>Wybunbury</u> in the				
County of <u>Cheshire</u> in the Year <u>1902</u>				
NAME.	Abode.	When Buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
Thomas Palin	Shavington	August 11th	71 years	J. L. Ashworth
No. 1977		Eleventh		Ass. Curate

PALIN Thomas of Greenbank-farm Shavington-cum-Gresty Cheshire died 6 August 1902 Probate **London** 27 September to James Richard Palin labourer and Joseph Dykes farmer Effects £948 11s. 2d.

The 1911 census records Mary Palin, Thomas' widow, still farming at Green Bank Farm with her three unmarried daughters and grandson John Mellor assisting her:

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.														Number of Schedule 112	
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.		
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)							
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as under one month, "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the name of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	State whether— (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. (3) "Alien," (4) "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.		
(1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or	(2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere.	No one else must be included.	(For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)					The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here.	Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer," (2) "Worker," (that is, in working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is, in working for oneself). (See Instructions 3 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Write the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	(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.	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.	(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."	NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.
1. Mary Palin	Head	48	Widow	7	7	1		Farmer's Widow		Employer		Cheshire Nantwich			
2. Alma Palin	Daughter	24	Single					Daughter working on farm		Worker		Cheshire Nantwich			
3. Annie Palin	Daughter	18	Single					Daughter working on farm		Worker		Cheshire Nantwich			
4. Sarah Palin	Daughter	33	Single					Daughter working on farm		Worker		Shavington Cheshire			
5. John Palin Mellor	Grandson	17	Single					Grandson working on farm		Worker		Shavington Cheshire			
6. Thomas Palin	Grandson	4										Shavington Cheshire			

(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 entered the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.

(3) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: *WJMS*

(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 (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count outhouse, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom; nor warehouse, office, shop.

114

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

Signature: *Mary Palin*

Postal Address: *Green Bank Farm Shavington Cheshire*

The census return records that Mary had seven children although it is known that eight had been born and one, Daniel, had died in 1884.

As mentioned previously, Alma Palin never married and her sisters Ann (Annie) and Sarah also remained spinsters. Alma died on 6 February 1932 in the Crewe district.

Ann Palin died on 8 July 1916 in the Nantwich district with the Probate on her Will being granted in London on 17 July 1920:

PALIN Ann of Main-road Shavington - cum - Gresty **Cheshire** spinster died 8 July 1916 Administration **London** 17 July to James Richard Palin labourer. Effects £92 8s. 7d.

Ann's Probate records that her estate was valued at £92 8s 7d which is equivalent to a labour value of around £30 000 in 2020.

It is believed that Sarah Palin died, with a recorded age of 39, in July / September 1918 in the Nantwich district.

Mary Palin died, aged 83, in April / June 1919 in the Nantwich district; she had outlived three of her children.

Thomas Palin jnr – George's father was the sixth child and third son of Thomas snr and Mary Palin. Thomas (who will, in this account, be commonly referred to as Thomas jnr to distinguish him from his father) was born in Shavington on 16 May 1871. In the 1891 census, aged 21 and living with his parents and siblings at Green Bank Farm, he was recorded as 'farmer's assistant' and in April / June 1893 he married Rhoda Potts.

Rhoda (11, born Shavington) was, in the 1881 census, recorded as the daughter of 'carter and coal merchant' George and Emma Potts of Osborne Grove, Shavington.

Their first child - George Thomas Palin (and the subject of this account) - was born shortly after their marriage, probably in mid-August 1893.

In 1901 the family, now with four children, was living at Osborne Grove in Shavington:

Thomas Palin	Head	M	30	Farmer's son	Rel.	Worker	Shavington
Rhoda	Wife	M	32				Shavington
George	Son	S	7				Shavington
William	Son	S	6				Shavington
James	Son	S	4				Shavington
Alfred	Son	S	2				Shavington

Osborne Grove, in the centre of the village, has been much developed although some of the older houses remain.

Thomas and Rhoda's fifth, and final, child was Emma and she was born six months after the 1901 census.

It is interesting that in 1901 Thomas jnr gives his occupation as 'farmer's son' as this suggests that he could still be working for his father at Green Bank Farm. However, by the time of the 1911 census (Thomas Palin snr had died in August 1902 and Thomas jnr's mother, Mary, was now running Green Bank Farm) Thomas jnr had left agriculture and was employed by the LNW Railway as a goods' porter in Crewe. The family still lived in Osborne Grove and, whilst sons William and James were employed as 'riddle maker's, George (17) was an 'unemployed waggoner'. The occupation 'riddle maker' probably indicates that William and James were producing agricultural sieves, possibly corn riddles, which were used for separating the cereal grain from the chaff.



Osborne Grove, Shavington [Google StreetView]

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.															
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.		
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "two months," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," or "Daughter," or "other relative," "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)			Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	(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.	(3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country.	(4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."
		Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, etc.			This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here.	Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	(5) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation.	(6) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation.	(7) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation.	(8) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation.
		Agings of Males.	Agings of Females.												
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
Thomas Palin	Head	40		Married	18	5	5		Goods Porter L.N.W. Ry.			Shavington			
Rhoda Palin	Wife	35	41	Married								Shavington			
George Thomas Palin	Son	17		Single					Unemployed Waggoner		4	Shavington			
William Palin	Son	16							Riddle Maker			Shavington			
James Palin	Son	14							Riddle Maker			Shavington			
Alfred Palin	Son	11							School	390	0	Shavington			
Emma Palin	Daughter	9							School			Shavington			

(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.)		
I certify that— (1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex columns. (2) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons. (3) After making the necessary inquiries, I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.			Write below the Number of Rooms in this Dwelling (House, Tenement, or Apartment). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.		
Initials of Enumerator— <i>WJG</i>			6 rooms		
Total. Males 5 Females 2 Persons 7			I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief. Signature <i>Thomas Palin</i> Postal Address <i>Osborne Grove Shavington Crewe</i>		

Whilst some further information will be given on Thomas and Rhoda Palin and their last four children towards the end of this account, what follows will detail the military life and death of George Thomas Palin.

As noted earlier, George Thomas Palin was born in August 1893 in Shavington and baptised at St Chad's Church, Wybunbury. Named after his maternal grandfather, George Potts, and his father and grandfather - both Thomas - there is little record of his early life although, raised within a farming family and community, it is probable that agriculture would have been his life. In 1911, aged 17, he was living at home in the centre of Shavington village and was recorded as an 'unemployed waggoner' – a 4-wheeled cart driver who moved heavy loads around a farm.

In mid-January 1914 it is known, from his Railway Employment Record, that George joined the London and North Western Railway as a labourer as, on Saturday 14 November 1914 he left their employment voluntarily having completed 10¼ months of service. It is presumed that, during his time with the LNWR, George was living in Shavington and was working out of Crewe. George's wages at this time - 19s per week - was in line with the national averages and somewhat above the average wage of 16s 9d per week paid to agricultural labourers in England in 1914 although below the £1 to £1 6s per week that a railway porter could expect. Interestingly, George's time-keeping was recorded as being 'Superb' and both his 'character' and 'abilities' as 'Good'.

November 19th 1914 Men Left, Discharged, or Transferred. (6-290-10/07.)

Date.	No.	Name.	Age	Trade.	Cause of Leaving.	Time Taken	Rate.	Length of Service. Years. Months.	Character.	Abilities.
1914										
14 Nov	2054	Palin Geo	21½	Cart Driver	Voluntarily	19.	-	10¼	Good	Good

UK, Railway Employment Records, London and North Western Miscellaneous Depts 1891-1927, 1913-1915
New, Leaving Men Week ending 19 Nov 1914

Nothing further is known of George's employment although it is known that he was working, although maybe only briefly, in Burton at some time between the April 1911 census and the date when he joined the army. The only two periods of time when he could have been in Burton were:

- from April 1911 (when he would have been aged 17¾) and mid-January 1914 (then aged 20½) when he joined the LNWR. This is a period of about 33 months.
- between mid-November 1914 (aged about 21¼) when he left the LNWR and, at the latest, around March 1916. If he had not joined the army at an earlier date then George would have had 3 to 4 months of training at a regimental depot and at training camps in the UK before he joined his unit in France. This is a maximum period of about 16 months.

Whilst there is no conclusive evidence of support, it may be considered that, as George is commemorated at St Nicholas' Church in Burton, then his time in the village would most probably have been immediately prior to his army service and that he was here for some brief interval during 1915 and, possibly, early 1916.

Whilst the nature of George's work in Burton (or, perhaps, in neighbouring Puddington) is not recorded it is known that a number of young men came to work in agriculture in the area immediately prior to WW1. The whole of the Burton estate, including all the village, farms and Burton Hall was bought in 1903 by Henry Neville Gladstone ['HNG'] from Walter Norris Congreve and Gladstone immediately undertook a costly programme of 'improvement'. HNG, the third son of the former Liberal Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone, was conspicuously wealthy and bought Burton as a 'country retreat' from the nearby family home at Hawarden Castle. The main parts of this 'improvement' programme was the restructuring of the Hall (which then became Burton Manor), constructing new houses and other buildings in the village and updating some of the farms. Burton had seen a decline in overall population between 1801 and 1901, when it was at a low of 222, but with this activity more workers were needed and the population rose by nearly 20% to 264 in 1911. There had also been much work, between 1892 and 1916, on embanking and draining the marshes in the Dee Estuary to the south and west of Burton to create a significant amount of rough grassland where thousands of sheep could be grazed. For the young men employed on the land around Burton - and Henry Neville Gladstone was the employer of the majority of them - the outbreak of war in August 1916 was to prove decisive. HNG was, from the outset, determined to assist in the war effort and it is known that he exercised his local power in encouraging the young and fit men of Burton to enlist. Whilst it is known [*Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919*] that George enlisted in Crewe it is not recorded when this took place; the fact that he then gave his residence as Shavington does indicate, however, that he felt that this, rather than Burton, was his home. Unfortunately, the Service Record for George Palin has not been found and there is no information on his army career other than that, when he died on or shortly after 9 July 1916, he was serving with the 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment.

Although there is no indication of when George enlisted - his Service Number, 26477, indicates that this would probably have been well after mid-1915 - it is worth considering the early history of this unit until the beginning of July 1916. The following text in *italics* is extracted, with minor amendment and some correction, from *The Manchester Regiment 1758 – 1958 : The Eighteenth (Service) Battalion* at

<https://www.themanchesters.org/18th%20batt.htm>

On the 19th August 1914 Lord Derby had promoted the enlistment of an active service Battalion in Liverpool and on the 29th August there was an announcement in the local press appealing for men

"Such as clerks and others engaged in commercial business who wish to serve their country and would be willing to enlist in a Battalion of Lord Kitchener's new army if they felt assured that they would be able to serve with their friends and not to be put in a Battalion with unknown men as their companions".

The appeal proved enormously successful and on Monday 31st August the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Sir Daniel McCabe, made a similar appeal in the Manchester Guardian. As soon as the first editions appeared men clamoured to enlist and besieged the artillery barracks on Hyde Road.

On the 1st September the Lord Mayor swore in some 800 men and by the end of the day the first of the "Pals Battalions", the 16th, was complete.

The 2nd and 3rd September saw the completion of the enlistment for the 17th Battalion and between Saturday 5th and Monday 7th recruiting for the 18th Battalion was completed.

As the first 2 new battalions of the Manchester Regiment marched off to Heaton Park the 18th Battalion headed in the other direction and initial training commenced at the "White City", a sports and racing stadium in the Old Trafford area of the City. Until the accommodation had been built daily parades took place in the City Hall with route marches to and from Alexandra Park.

Training of a sort began, consisting mostly of Drill, Physical Fitness and lectures with night training once a week. The routine continued up to Christmas 1914 when most of the men were given leave for what, for some, would be their last Christmas with their families.

At the beginning of February 1916 the 18th Battalion moved to Heaton Park and joined the other 3 Pals Battalions.

Training intensified in the vast open spaces of the park but the absence of proper uniforms (the men were still dressed in blue uniforms earning themselves the nickname of 'tram guards') and weapons produced what the Commanding officer called a 'staleness' in the men and he designated Wednesday afternoons as a holiday as well as Saturday afternoon. This promptly earned them the nickname of 'the shopkeepers' from the other Battalions! [At that time shops were commonly closed on Wednesday afternoons] Sports were quickly organised and the extra training meant that the Battalion carried off most of the prizes in the Brigade steeplechase earning them their third nickname 'the scarlet runners'.

On 24 April 1915 the 18th Battalion left Heaton Park and moved to Grantham, Lincolnshire, to join the rest of the 30th Division for more-intense training. On 7 September they moved again, now to Larkhill Camp on Salisbury Plain where they were issued with their full kit and armaments and were prepared for overseas action. On 8 November the men were taken to Folkestone and boarded troop ships for Boulogne. At 2 am on 10 November they boarded a train for Pont Remy, a small town on The Somme, where, in worsening rain, they detrained and marched around 11 miles [17.5km] north-eastwards to Coulouvillers.

10th November [1915] *The men settled into their billets and for the next 7 days were occupied with route marches, bayonet fighting, gas drills and general training. The men left Coulouvillers on the 17th and marched to Cardonette spending a night at Vignacourt en route.*

25th November *Training continued at a pace and it was on this day that the Battalion suffered its first casualties. During bombing practice a Sergeant from A company threw a Hales N°1 grenade which struck the top of the parapet and burst amongst the occupants of the trench. Three men were injured and one of those died the following day. This sad accident, occurring so soon after the Battalion arrived in France, cast a feeling of gloom over the men.*

28th November *The Battalion moved to Canaples where the training continued and work parties were employed on wood cutting.*

6th December *After a 10 mile march to Puchevillers the Battalion went into the trenches – 'A' + 'C' company to Englebelmer and 'C' + 'D' to Mesnil for instructions in trench warfare.*

16th December *The Battalion moved back to Canaples where it spent Christmas in billets. Every effort was made to make it seem a little like the festive season by the provision of Christmas fare and the abstinence from all but the most necessary of work.*

6th January 1916 *Training completed, the battalion was deemed ready to take its place in the line. It formed up and marched eastwards towards the front line trenches in the Somme marshes sector around the village of Vaux.*

'A' Company was sent to Dragon's Wood, 'B' Company was in Vaux village, 'C' Company was in Vaux Wood and 'D' Company was in battle dug-outs. Each company was ordered to send a platoon to the trenches at Moulin de Fargny [by Maricourt] under the command of Captain Godlee.

11th January *The battalion suffered its first battle casualty when a Private was shot through the head by a sniper.*

28th January The Battalion endured heavy shelling today (presumably to celebrate the Kaiser's birthday) and in the evening the Germans attacked Fargny Mill and attempted to cut the wire in front of the trenches but were driven back by bombs and rapid rifle fire. Very few of the enemy reached the lines and of those that did several were killed and one was taken prisoner - the first by the Battalion.

1st February The Battalion received a draft of 25 NCOs and men from the 25th Battalion Manchester Regiment.

26th February Knowles Point was attacked by a German patrol which was repulsed with bombs and rifle fire.

27th February Knowles Point was attacked again by the enemy estimated at 60 strong. The Battalion scouts warned of their presence and it was met by grenade and rifle fire. Reinforcements were sent for and a Lewis gun was set up and the enemy was seen off leaving 2 men dead on the wire. 'B' Company's losses in this action were: 3 killed and 9 wounded.

19th March The battalion was relieved by 8th East Surreys and marched to the Bois de Tailles near Étinehem where it stayed until the 29th. The casualties for two months spent in the trenches were: 130 men killed, missing or wounded and the commanding Officer Lt Col Walter Fraser, who had been in command of the Battalion since its first day had been forced to return home due to an old sickness accentuated by the active part he took in the above operations. Major William Smith of the 20th King's (Liverpool) Regiment assumed command.

29th March The Battalion was relieved by the 20th King's (Liverpool) Regiment and proceeded to billets in Freshencourt. Here it stayed until 10th April mainly engaged on constructing a new railway line to link up the principal villages held by the British.

1st April The Battalion marched to Picquigny where it remained for the next month carrying out platoon and company training.

1st May The Battalion moved to Bray and was in reserve to the 54th Brigade.

8th May The Battalion took over the trenches from the 16th Manchester's in front of Maricourt.

14th May The Battalion was relieved by the 16th Manchester's and returned to billets in Suzanne where it supplied working parties to the Royal Engineers.

19th - 25th May The Battalion was again in the trenches. It was a mostly quiet time and it returned to the billets at Suzanne.

1st - 12th June The battalion was in Billon Wood and then to billets at Etinehem in reserve to the 30th Division.

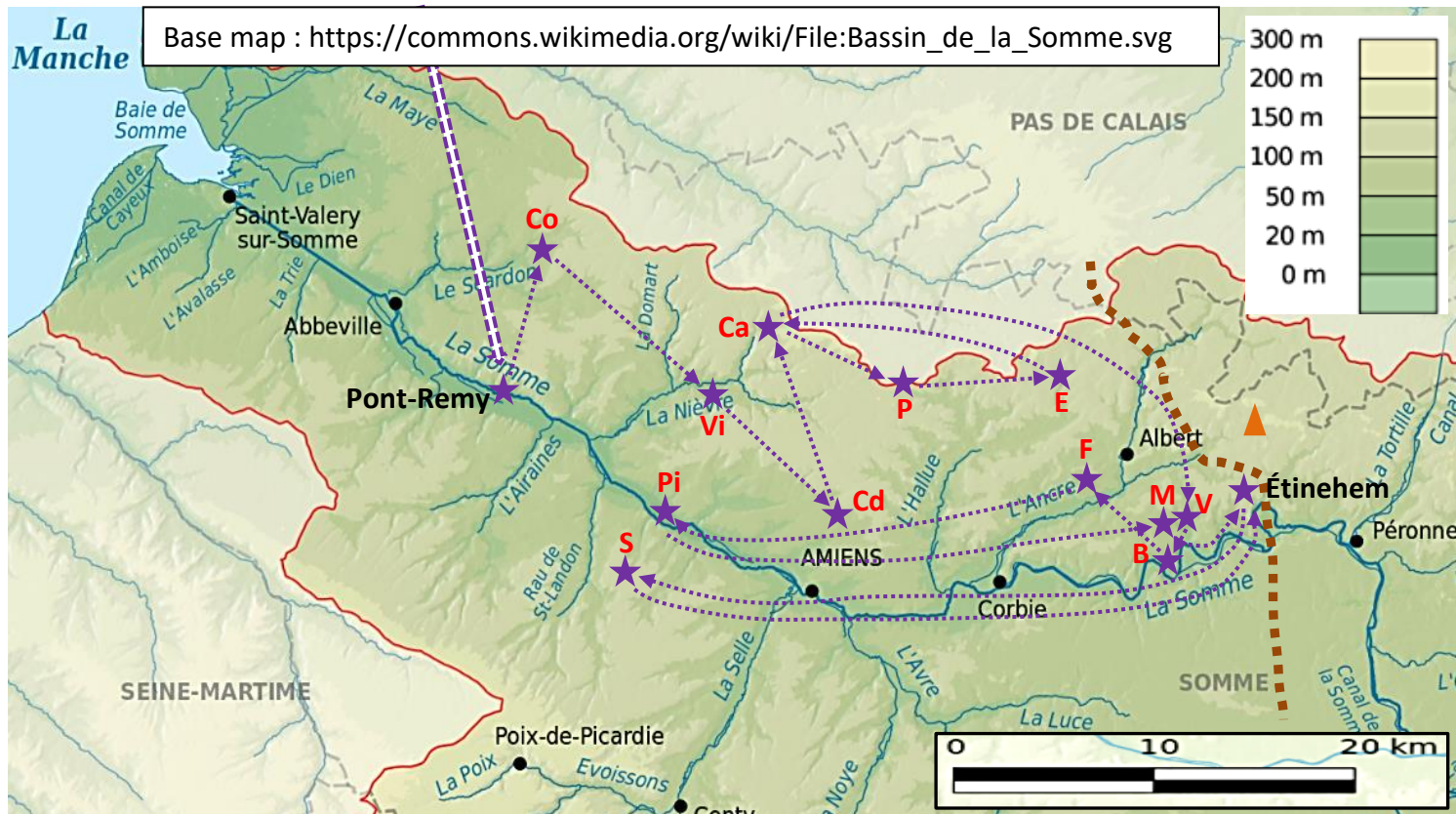
18th June The Battalion (less 'D' Company) moved to Saisseval where it was fully occupied with special training for the coming Battle of The Somme.

26th June The Battalion returned to Étinehem where 'D' Company rejoined. 'D' Company during this time had been given the task of moving up the tons of ammunition and stores that would be needed for the forthcoming battle. This they completed within the prescribed time and without any casualties.

29th June 23 men were wounded by the explosion of a bomb; many were destined not to take part in the big day and this incident may have saved their lives!

The 1st July was rapidly approaching and it was evident to the men that every effort was being made to make the attack a success. A tremendous artillery bombardment had been pounding the German lines and the valleys between Bray and Maricourt bristled with batteries of artillery and men.

A map showing the movement of the 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment is on the following page.



An interpretation of the primary movements of the 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment within the Somme Basin, 9 November 1915 – 26 June 1916 [I.L. Norris]

On 9 November 1915 the Regiment moved, by train, from Boulogne to Pont-Remy on the Somme River (dashed double line, purple). Subsequent movements, some on foot, are shown by the dashed lines; these indicate the general direction of travel between the known locations [purple stars] and not the actual route taken.

The boundary of the Somme Basin is indicated by the red line and the main settlements are named. George Palin was killed in action on 1 July 1916 during the assault on Trônes Wood, east of Albert, and this is indicated by the orange triangle (the wood actually does have this triangular form). From Pont-Remy (named) the Regiment moved, in the sequence shown on the map, to :

Coulouvillers [Co] ; Vignacourt [Vi] ; Cardonette [Cd] ; Canaples [Ca] ; Puchevillers [P] ; Englebelmer [En] ; Canaples [for Christmas 1915] ; Vaux & Moulin de Fargny [V](near Maricourt) ; Bois-de- Tailles [B](near Étinehem) ; Freshencourt [F] ; Picquigny [Pi] ; Maricourt [M] ; Étinehem (named) ; Saisseval [S] ; Étinehem

The approximate position of the front line, within the Somme Basin, on 1 July 1916 is shown by the broken brown line to the east of Albert. Allied forces then occupied the area to the west.

Throughout their time on The Somme the 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment saw a considerable amount of front line action. By 13 June 1916 the men were at Étinehem where they were to shortly join the action again by moving north-eastwards to form part of the attack on Trônes Wood. Before reaching Trônes Wood the Regiment was involved in The Capture of Montauban - correctly known as Montauban-de-Picardie, just east of Albert - on 1 July 1916. This date is considered to mark the start of the First Battle of The Somme. Detailing the action for the first eleven days of July 1916 (George Thomas Palin was presumed killed on 9 July) the Battalion's War Diary entries, and the report on the action at Trônes Wood, are reproduced below.

Much has been written about the opening days of The First Battle of The Somme and no discussion will be repeated here. For further information it is worth consulting:

1916 Battle of the Somme Reconsidered Peter Liddle Pen & Sword Books Ltd 2016

The Imperial War Museum Book of the Somme Malcolm Brown Pan 2002

The Somme Richard Van Emden Pen & Sword Military 2016

The Somme: The Darkest Hour On The Western Front Peter Hart Pegasus Books 2010

and the following websites might prove of interest:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/First-Battle-of-the-Somme> (for a very brief overview)

<https://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/battles/view.php?pid=2>

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/49122/49122-h/49122-h.htm> (a comprehensive – around 135 pages – long contemporary account with numerous photographs and maps)

Suffice it to say that the 1916 First Battle of The Somme was one of the most bitterly contested battles of the First World War and lasted 4½ months until 18 November. More than three million men fought in the battle and one million men were wounded or killed, making it one of the deadliest battles in human history. The offensive began on 1 July 1916, 'Z-Day', after a week-long artillery bombardment of the German lines and the first day saw a serious defeat for the German Second Army, which was forced out of its position by the French Sixth Army, from Foucaucourt-en-Santerre south of the Somme to Maricourt on the north bank and by the Fourth Army from Maricourt to the vicinity of the Albert–Bapaume road (just to the north-west of this map extract). The 57,470 casualties, including 19,240 killed, were the worst in the history of the British Army. The losses were worst on the front between the Albert–Bapaume road and Gommecourt to the north, where the attack was defeated and few British troops reached the German front line.

The battle became notable for the importance of air power and the first use of the tank in September but these were a product of new technology and exceedingly unreliable.

[Adapted from Wikipedia]

On 30 June the 18th Battalion Manchester Regiment had moved from camp at Étinehem, immediately west of Bray-sur-Somme, and on 1 July they were part of the combined attack on Montauban which successfully overran the German positions.

[For a detailed account of the taking of Montauban see

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capture_of_Montauban]

On the second day, 2 July, the troops were in the previously German-held strongpoint of Train Alley immediately south of Montauban and the following day they were relieved and moved to the relative safety of the trenches in Happy Valley north of Bray and around 11km west of the new front line. On 8 July the 18th Battalion moved north-eastwards again to the trenches north of Maricourt where, for the next 2½ days, they were to support the troops who were pushing 5km northwards to take the German-held positions in and around Bernafay Wood and Trônes Wood. It was during this period that George Palin was assumed to have been killed in action; whilst his death was stated officially to be 9 July – his body was never recovered or identified – the Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects document notes that it was 'on or since 9-7-16 death presumed'.

The report on the operations (which, in part, is difficult to read and so is transcribed here in slightly abridged form) from 8 July gives more detail and notes that on 8 July, at 2pm

Companies from TRAIN ALLEY were ordered to move up to TRÔNES WOOD.....'A' Coy went first and reached WOOD about 3pm by way of CHIMNEY TRENCH and TRÔNES

ALLEY, passing through a heavy barrage. 'B Coy' also passed down CHIMNEY TRENCH and TRÔNES ALLEY, and the guide lost his way and led the party to BRIQUETERIE [a brickworks just south-east of Montauban. It was captured on 1 July by the 30th Division and was used as a HQ during the Somme battles]Orders were then given to 'B' Coy to push on to TRÔNES WOOD which they reached at 4.30pm, reporting to the WILTS. HQ. 'A' Coy had taken up a position in the SW edge of the WOOD and begun work on a new trench eastwards from the edge of the WOOD....'B' Coy sent one platoon to assist 'A' and the rest of the Coy took up a position in TRÔNES ALLEY, establishing bombing posts at three points where unfinished trenches led northwards.[At 8.0pm] 'C' Coy arrived and reinforced 'A' and 'B' who had had many casualties from shell fire and the line was lengthened in the WOOD. TRÔNES ALLEY was shelled heavily all night.

[9 July 1916, 7.0am] The 17th Manchester Regiment attacked the WOOD. 'D' Coy followed in support, their orders being to push on to the eastern edge of the wood and help in consolidating its defences. 'C' Coy was organised to support 'B' Coy if required. On arriving at CENTRE TRENCH considerable delay occurred as it was full of men belonging to the 17th Manchester Regiment and too wide to join and the attackers were forced to descend into the trench and clamber up the other side. This part of the WOOD was being shelled at the time and owing to casualties and men getting lost in the thick undergrowth the Company was reduced to less than 50. [At] 8.30am 'B' Coy reached [a point where] attempts had been made by the enemy to begin a small trench and the Coy made this deeper and linked together the larger shells holes for defence. [This position, at the southern end of Trônes Wood, is known precisely and is marked with a green star on the trench map on page 1225d]. Hardly had the tasks been allotted when the enemy began to shell this particular spot intensely. An Officer's patrol was sent out to get in touch with the troops on the north and South but on returning reported that there was nobody holding the eastern fringe of the WOOD and that the nearest post on the North held by the South Africans was 400 yards away.

11.0am The report of the patrol was sent to GC 18th Manchester Regiment and as more than half the Coy had become casualties he ordered a withdrawal to the general line which was held by the 17th Manchesters. The wounded were all brought back under heavy fire.

12 noon Orders were received....for 18th Manchesters to relieve [?] three Coys of which were in the WOOD and one Coy attached to 2nd RSR [Royal Sussex Regiment] in MALTZ HORN TRENCH. 'A' Coy were detailed for attachment to 2nd RSR remaining under that command until they were relieved on the 11th instance and proceed to MARICOURT. The other three Coys then took up a position on the fringe of the WOOD....'D' Coy on the East, 'C' in the centre, and 'B' on the West [and shown precisely by the green line on the trench map on page 1225d].

1.0pm The shelling, which had continued without cessation from 3.0pm the previous day, became intense throughout this part of the WOOD and continued until the eventual withdrawal was over.

3.0pm The 17th Manchester Regiment began to move down to BERNAFAY WOOD. OC 18th Manchester Regiment then gave orders to withdraw to the BRIQUETERIE sending out messengers to warn all three Coys, B, C & D....

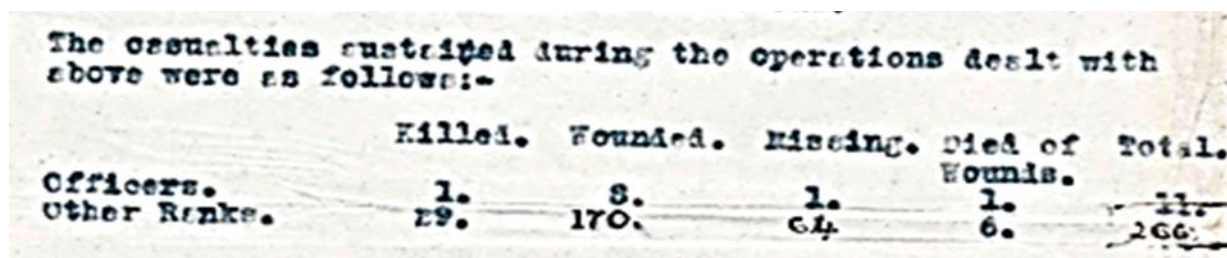
4.30pm OC 18th Manchester Regiment reached BRIQUETERIE and got in touch with about 20 men who stated that the rest of the battalion had gone back to TRAIN ALLEY.

5.30pm OC 18th Manchester Regiment reached TRAIN ALLEY and collected about 35 NCOs and men and two officers....It was found that 'D' Coy was not present.

9.30pm Orders were given....to move up again to SUNKEN ROAD BRIQUETERIE and the battalion now approximated 80 strong moved up and reported to the OC 16th Manchester Regiment who ordered that 18th Manchesters should stay in CHIMNEY TRENCH and await instructions. 'B' Coy (55 strong) was found on SUNKEN ROAD having gone there at 10pm on finding that TRÔNES WOOD had been evacuated. This Coy, unfortunately, never received the order to withdraw because they were further SOUTH than they were expected to be and this and the fact that they were crouching low in their cover accounts for the fact that they were not found by the messengers who were sent on four occasions to look for them. Just before the withdrawal they had been reported as 'nearly wiped out'. After most of the troops had passed back they were reported to have all gone by and later a runner stated they were at the BRIQUETERIE. Hence the fact that they had not received the order passed unnoticed till later on. In spite of their isolated position, however, this Company held on to its position, they shot several of the enemy trying to enter the wood on their left and eventually withdrew successfully with a strength of 55 men.

[10 July 1916, 6.0am] Two Coys moved from CHIMNEY TRENCH moved up to SUNKEN ROAD to take the place of the reserve Coys of 16th Manchesters who had been sent forward.

Whilst there is no certainty as to when George Palin was 'presumed killed in action' on 9 July, or his exact position (we don't know to which Company he was assigned) it is probable that he was one of the many casualties of the German shelling of the western and southern side of Trônes Wood as the men took over the previous enemy positions and attempted to consolidate their position. The report (in which the casualties are incorrectly totalled) indicate that almost 280 were killed, wounded and missing in the action:



The casualties sustained during the operations dealt with above were as follows:-					
	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Died of Wounds.	Total.
Officers.	1.	8.	1.	1.	11.
Other Ranks.	29.	170.	64.	6.	269.

Although the War Diary entries covering this time are brief and give little detail they are reproduced on the following page and maps depicting the area of conflict are on page 1225d.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

18th (Lincoln) Battalion MANCHESTER REGT

Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MONTAUBAN	July 6		The battalion took part in the operations which led to the capture of MONTAUBAN, acting as carrying battalion to the 90 th INFANTRY BRIGADE. Total casualties 6 officers wounded [CAPT. G.E. WOOLLAM, LT H.B. HARRISON, 2 nd LT A. COOPER (res of wounds) 2 nd LT F.A. ESSE and 2 nd LT G.H. DOUGHTY] and 140 other ranks, killed wounded and missing.	APPENDIX K1
"	" 2		Battalion in TRAIN ALLEY, old German support line, in reserve to 90 th Infantry Brigade.	
HAPPY VALLEY	" 3		Battalion was relieved in TRAIN ALLEY & proceeded to HAPPY VALLEY, which is about 2 miles from BRAY on the BRAY-ALBERT Road.	
"	" 4		Bringing parties from all Coys for clearing the battlefield.	
"	" 5		do do Extract from today's orders: The undermentioned officer, N.C.O's and men were mentioned in C. SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S despatch dated APRIL 30 th 1916 for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field [Extract from second supplement to LONDON GAZETTE of 20. 6. 1916 dated 21. 6. 1916]: LT T.J. KELLY 10816 SERGT E.C. HILL; 10045 LANCE SERGT S.W. SHIRLEY, 10383 PTE R DONE, 10390 PTE S FORSTER.	LT C.A. BLYTHE promoted captain.

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

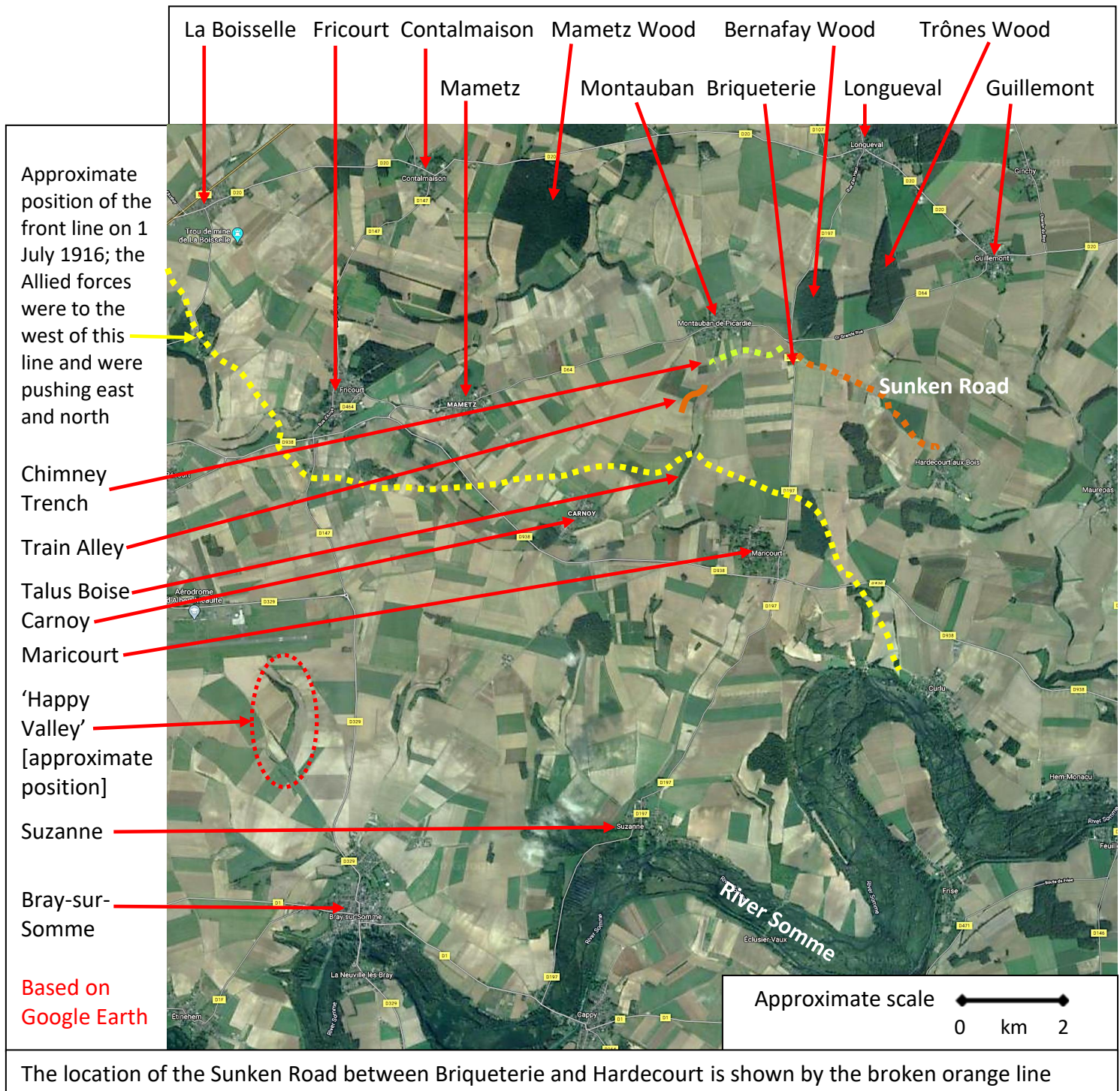
18th (Lincoln) Battalion MANCHESTER REGT

Place	Date 1916	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAPPY VALLEY	July 6		Fatigue parties clearing the battlefield.	
"	" 7		do.	
"	" 8		Battalion moved up to old BRITISH front line trenches, where in support to the 2 nd BRIGADE who were attacking TRONES WOOD. This began a series of operations in and about this wood which continued until July 11 th .	
"	" 9		Total casualties 11 officers [KILLED: CAPT CHENSHALL, 2 nd LT B.B. SALMON; WOUNDED LT COL WA. SMITH (res of wounds) LT LI W.P. KNOWLES, CAPT R. HOBKIRK, LT M BRUNTON, LT H.G. WATSON, 2 nd LT W. WALLWORK, 2 nd LT C.T. TURPIN, 2 nd Q. WILCOX, 2 nd LT S. FERNYHOUGH] and 240 other ranks killed, wounded and missing. The battalion was relieved at 5.0 A.M. in the morning of July 11 th and proceeded to the old BRITISH trenches at MARICOURT where a halt was made until 3.0 P.M. The battalion then proceeded by BRAY and BRAY-CORBIE ROAD to BOIS DES CELESTINS. LT COL SMITH was wounded on the 8 th and MAJOR GODLEE was wounded on the 11 th .	See Appendix K2
Bois DES	" 12			

The Sunken Road leading towards Hardecourt
[<http://www.webmatters.net/txtpat/index.php?id=357>]

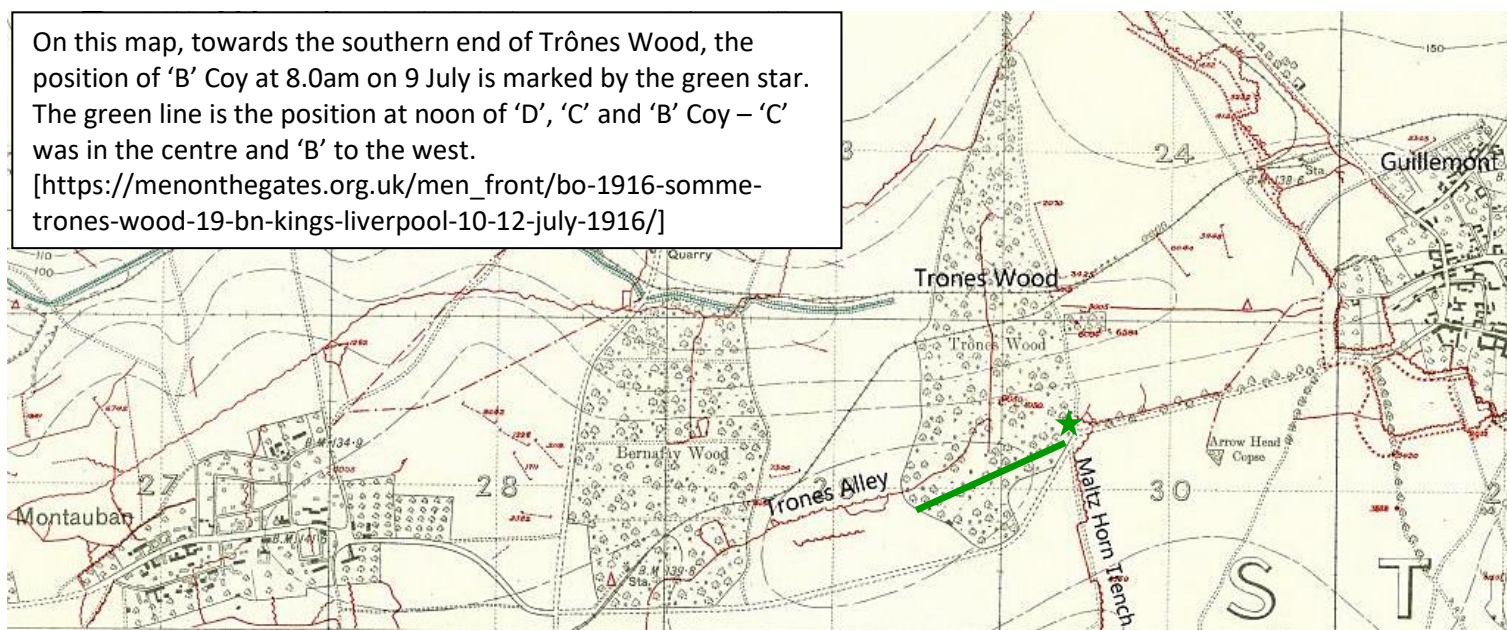
Inside Trônes Wood [Imperial War Museum (Q 861)]





The location of the Sunken Road between Briqueterie and Hardecourt is shown by the broken orange line

On this map, towards the southern end of Trônes Wood, the position of 'B' Coy at 8.0am on 9 July is marked by the green star. The green line is the position at noon of 'D', 'C' and 'B' Coy – 'C' was in the centre and 'B' to the west.
https://menonthegates.org.uk/men_front/bo-1916-somme-trones-wood-19-bn-kings-liverpool-10-12-july-1916/



As with many men killed around this time on The Somme, George Palin's body was either never recovered or was not identified and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. After the war George's father, Thomas, received his outstanding wages and a War Gratuity of £3.

472112	8/391251	Palin George Thomas	18th Batt on or since Manchester 9-7-16 Pte death. 26477. presumed	Preston 4/17	2	17	6	4	2	17	6	m.o. 7/17	30-6-17	Fa:- Thomas	2	17	6	old
		A.F.W.S.O sent 13-6-19	<div>WAR GRATUITY. Effects ... 19/11/19 Transfer ... 22/12/19 Regd Paper ... 20/24/19 Serial No. ... 141911</div>		3	-	-	21-10-19/2		Pa: Thomas	3	-	-	MB				

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 June 1919 George's father, Thomas, received a payment of outstanding wages of £2 17s 6d from the army and, in October, a War Gratuity of £3. This, a total value of £5 17s 6d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £910 in 2020.

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.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
63 PALIN	Manch. R	Pte.	26477
George T.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	HS/1/104 Bb	1522	
BATTLES	- do -	75	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

British Army
WWI Medal
Rolls Index
Cards, 1914-
1920

Great War
Memorial Plaque,
St Nicholas
Church, Burton



Shavington War Memorial
table[https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/
item/memorial/57743](https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/57743)

As well as being commemorated on the plaque inside St Nicholas' Church in Burton and on the Thiepval Memorial, George is commemorated also on the WW1 tablet located in the vestibule of the Shavington-cum-Gresty Village Hall (left) and on the Shavington War memorial which is in front of the Village Hall.

Shavington War Memorial consists of two 'open books' of polished black marble containing the names of 22 casualties of WW1 and 10 who died in WW2.

In addition to George T Palin a Harry Palin is commemorated for WW1 and another Harry Palin for WW2. It is understood that neither man was related closely to George.



(<http://www.carlscam.com/warmem/shavington.htm>)

To conclude the account of George Thomas Palin it is worth considering briefly his immediate family.

As mentioned previously, Rhoda Palin (George's mother) died, aged 58, in April / June 1928, in the Nantwich district. At the time of the 1939 Register (29 September) George's father, Thomas (widowed, retired railway labourer), was living at 12 Osborne Grove, Shavington:

ADDRESS.		SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.		O. V. S. P. or I.		M. or F.		BIRTH.		S. M. W. or D.		PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	
		No.	Sub. No.							Day.	Year.				
1		2	3	4		5		6		7	8	9		10	
12 Osborne Grove		81	3	Yoxall Emma		-		F		28	Oct	1901		Unpaid Domestic Duties	

This record is officially closed.

In the household with Thomas were his son William and widowed daughter Emma Yoxall and her young daughter, Beryl (the redacted line), who was born in early 1928. Thomas Palin died, aged 75, in early 1947.

George Thomas Palin had three younger brothers and a younger sister:

- William Palin was born on 18 March 1895 in Shavington and in the 1911 census, then aged 15, was recorded as a 'riddle maker' living with his parents and siblings. In the 1939 Register he was recorded, as a railway labourer, with his father (see above) and widowed sister. Although recorded as being married, the record does not contain an entry for his wife and she has not been identified.

It is *possible* that William married an Alice Alman in the Nantwich district in July / September 1921 and they had no children. An Alice Palin died, in the Nantwich district, in early 1930 when she was 44. If she was William's wife, Alice would have been around 9 years older than him. However, it is clear that William married Constance Lillian (Lilly) Adams at St Chad's in July / September 1950. Constance was born on 21 February 1905, so

was 10 years' younger than William and had not been married previously. Her father, John W Adams, was a beer house keeper / beerseller (born Tarvin) and they were living together in 1939 at 167 Westminster Road in Crewe. It is not known when Constance died although it was probably after late 1992.

William died in the Congleton & Crewe district on 23 May 1975 and the Probate on his Will was proved (in Sheffield, for an unknown reason) on 22 July for £3535 although beneficiaries were not named. His address was recorded as being West View, Rope Lane, Shavington:

PALIN, William of West Vw Rope La Shavington nr Crewe died 23 May 1975 Administration with Will Sheffield 22 July £3535 753011304H

- James Palin was born on 1 August 1897 and, like his brother William, was recorded as a 'riddle maker', aged 14, in the 1911 census. At the time of the 1939 Register James was a brickyard foreman, living at Carne-Brea, Audley Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme:

Carne-Brea ditto	182	1	Palin, James	M	1 Aug 97	M	Brickyard Foreman
	182	2	Palin, Constance	F	22 Sept 92	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
26-9-49 ORR M	182	3	BEARNE, Constance E.	F	16 June 20	S	Apprentice Domestic Pottery
	182	4	Clarke, George	M	6 June 62	VW	Engineer Mechanical (Retired)

James had married Constance Evelyn Clarke in St Chad's Church, Wybunbury, in April / June 1919 and in 1939 their daughter, also Constance Evelyn (born 14 June 1920, apprentice decorator [pottery]) and George Clarke (the father of Constance snr) were with them. It is not known whether James and Constance had other children.

Constance died in July / September 1972 in the Northwich area and James died 10 March 1973, also in the Northwich area.

Constance Palin jnr married Peter A Bearne in mid-1949.

- Alfred Palin was born in Shavington on 24 August 1899 and he was baptised on 15 October. At the time of the 1911 census, aged 11, Alfred was living in Shavington with his parents and siblings. In April / June 1927 Alfred married Doris Emily Kinsey at Shavington Primitive Methodist Chapel, Rope Lane. The chapel closed in 1967 and a house now occupies the site.

In the 1939 Register Alfred, who was employed in 'cleaning for loco painters', was living at 4, Clifton Avenue, Crewe, with his wife's parents:

HP	DO.	169	1	Kinsey, Samuel	-	M	81st Mar 78	M	Reg. Carriage Repairer Retired
			2	Kinsey, Marie	-	F	25th Aug 78	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties
		164	1	Palin, Alfred	-	M	24th Aug 99	M	Cleaning for Loco. Painters
			2	Palin, Doris E.	-	F	22nd Sep 01	M	Unpaid Domestic Duties

This record is officially closed.

It is believed that Alfred and Doris had two children, Jean (born mid-1928 and died, aged 2, late 1930) and Doreen Emily (born late 1933). The redacted line conceals Doreen's data; she married Joseph J Pointon in the Crewe district in mid-1957 and had three children.

Alfred Palin died, aged 79, on 1 September 1978 in the Congleton & Crewe district and he was buried on 5 September (place unknown). Doris Palin died in 1985 (date unknown) also in the Congleton & Crewe district.

- Emma Palin, the last child and only daughter of Thomas and Rhoda, was born on 28 October 1901 in Shavington. She married William Yoxall in late 1926 at Shavington Primitive Methodist Chapel, Rope Lane and they are believed to have had one daughter, Beryl, who was born in the Nantwich district in early 1928.

William Yoxall was one of the 9 children (4 had died by the time of the 1911 census) of John and Eliza Yoxall of 38, Sheppard Street, Crewe; John was a blacksmith's striker at a locomotive works. William had been married previously to Annie Ratcliffe (married mid-1921) but she died in mid-1923 aged 23. They had a son, Robert W Yoxall, born mid-1922. William Yoxall died on 18 November 1938 in the Crewe district at the age of 39 and in the 1939 Register the widowed Emma and daughter Beryl were living with her father and older brother William at 12, Osborne Grove, Shavington.

Emma never remarried and she died in April / June 1977 in the Congleton & Crewe district aged 76. Beryl, the only child of Emma and William Yoxall, married Norman J Bedson in April / June 1950.



Above: The inscription to G T Palin on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, Picardy, France [courtesy of David Pointon]

Right: The Memorial Plaque ("Dead Man's Penny") which was issued to Thomas & Rhoda Palin, George's parents, after the war. This Plaque can be identified as a later one made at the Acton, London, factory as it has a number (17) behind the lion's rear leg. By December 1920 manufacture had moved to the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and the Plaque number was in a different position. [courtesy of Valerie Maddocks]



On the Plaque the initials E.C^R.P (above the lion's front paw) credit the designer, Edward Carter Preston

Postscript

During the writing of this account it was discovered that, in late 2018, Cheshire East Council had commemorated the WW1 dead of Shavington by the naming of new streets off Crewe Road. However, for reasons that remain unclear, the street commemorating George Thomas Palin was named *Thomas Palin Close*. Despite protests from descendants of George, some still living in the district, both the council and developers (Taylor Wimpey) have stated that they are not in a position to re-name this street. To 'adjust' the name of a man who died for his country in this way is, at best, disrespectful and grossly insensitive.