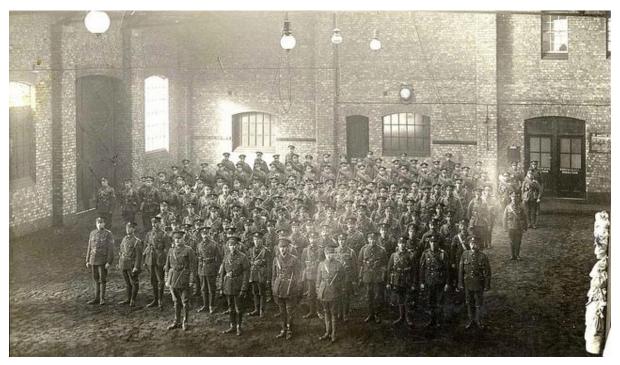
Castle Hill Chapel First World War Dead



A Shropshire Yeoman in 1914



Men of Cheshire Regiment (believed to be in Neston Town Hall 1914).

Clive Richards Barber (Military Medal)

Birth Place: Shifnal (Wombridge) - 1897

Date of Death: 20th November 1918 - France/Flanders - after Armistice Day

Type of Casualty: Died of Influenza

Enlistment Location: Whitchurch

Rank: Sergeant

Regiment: Royal Garrison Artillery – 255th Siege Battalion



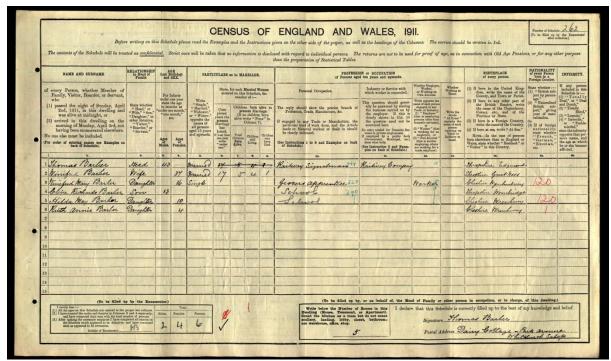
9.2" Howitzer at Corbie in May 1918

Service Number: 106199

Clive was the son of railway signalman Thomas Barber (1869-1934) and his wife Winifred (*née* Jones 1873-1957) of Dairy Cottage, Park Avenue, Whitchurch. Clive's older sister was Winifred Mary Barber, a sixteen year-old grocer's apprentice on the day of the 1911 Census, 2nd April. His two younger sisters were Hilda May and Ruth Annie (10 and 4 respectively) – see Census.

Resting Place: Plot: S. III. II. 14. St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.

Siege Batteries of the RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire. The usual armaments were 6 inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, although some had huge railway- or road-mounted 12 inch howitzers. As British artillery tactics developed, the Siege Batteries were most often employed in destroying or neutralising enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strongpoints, dumps, stores, roads and railways behind enemy lines. The 255th Siege Battalion first saw overseas service on 18th January 1917.



Clive Richards Barber: 1911 Census Record



St. Sever Cemetery Extension

Alfred Evason

Birth Place: Liverpool - 1888

Date of Death: 30th September 1918 - France/Flanders

Type of Casualty: Died – probably of disease rather than wounds – possibly part of the influenza epidemic

Enlistment Location: Whitchurch

Rank: Acting Sergeant

Regiment: Machine Gun Corps – 66th Battalion

Service Number: 128596 - Formerly 204022, Shropshire Light Infantry

Although he started his working life as a chemist's apprentice, Alfred was a butcher, who lived at 19 Bark Hill, Whitchurch. His wife was Fanny (*née* Stoker 1887-1967), and they married in 1910 in Wellington, Shropshire. At the time of the 1911 Census, Alfred and Fanny had living with them Fanny's sister Dorothy (a 12 year-old schoolgirl), and butcher (working for Alfred) Philip Henry Scott, aged 18. (See Census.) Alfred's parents were Charles and Jane. His father was a 'cutter down' at an ironworks (almost certainly that run by Robert Smith – whose father William is commemorated on the stained glass windows in the East Transept of St. John's). Alfred's older brother was George, who was a 'helper at the rolling mills' in 1911, aged 19.

Place of Rest: 1B.146 Le Cateau Military Cemetery, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

The Machine Gun Corps was formed in October 1915 as the value of the Vickers Machine Gun in battle became appreciated. The 66th MGC joined 22nd Division on the 14th of July 1916 in Salonika. They were in action at in the Battles of Horseshoe Hill and Machukovo. In 1917 they fought in the Battle of Doiran, and in mid 1918 a number of units, including Alfred Evanson's, transferred to France. Some 170,500 officers and men served in the MGC, with 62,049 becoming casualties, including 12,498 being killed.



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Alfred Evason: 1911 Census Record



Le Cateau Cemetery

James Henry Hockenhull

Birth Place: Tilstock - 1889

Date of Death: 16th March 1916 – France/Flanders

Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Enlistment Location: Whitchurch

Rank: Rifleman

Regiment: King's Royal Rifle Corps – 16th Battalion Service Number: C/454

James's parents were agricultural labourer James (1856-1923) and Mary (*née* Cartwright 1864-99) of Cattralls Lane. On 2nd April 1911, James, aged 21, was employed as a groom and general servant by Miss Ada Mary Moss, who was 49 and living on 'private means'. Also in the household at Moss Villa, Tilstock Road, Whitchurch were cook Sarah Ann Moore and housemaid May Scott. James had 3 older sisters, Mary Annie, Martha, and Beatrice, an older brother John, a younger brother, Herbert, and three younger sisters, Ada, Mary Emma, and Lucy. James was a first cousin once removed of Lucy Hockenhull (1918-) who is a member of St. John's. (James's father was the brother of Lucy's grandfather John Hockenhull b.1848.)

Resting Place: Plot: I. A. 3. Beuvry Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

The 16th (Service) Battalion (Church Lads Brigade) was formed at Denham, Bucks, on 19th September 1914 by Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Commandant of the Church Lads Brigade, from current and previous members of that organisation. In June 1915 the unit moved to Clipstone Camp (near Market Harborough) and came under orders of 100th Brigade in 33rd Division, then moved to Perham Down (Salisbury Plain) in August 1915 and landed at Le Havre on 17th November 1915. James may have fought alongside William Ernest Burrows of St. John's Church, as they were both in the 16th King's Royal Rifle Corps at the time of their death.

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James Henry Hockenhull: 1911 Census Record



Beuvry Communal Cemetery Extension

Ralph Drake Newbrook

Birth Place: Whitchurch - 1889

Date of Death: 9th April 1917 - France/Flanders

Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Enlistment Location: Ontario, Canada

Rank: Private

Regiment: Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment)

Service Number: Not Known

Ralph's parents were Joseph (1867-1937), a coal merchant's clerk and Edith Gabriella Wheaton (*née* Harcourt 1867-1906), who were living at 9 Havannah Buildings, Whitchurch on 31st March 1901, and at that time had children Ralph, 12, Stanley, 9, Dorothy, 7 and Florence, 4. Joseph and Edith married in 1885 in Hackney, London. Joseph was born in Whitchurch, Edith was a Londoner, and they made their life together back in Whitchurch, and had Minnie and Grace before Ralph. Ralph emigrated to Canada and was married there sometime after 1911 (he was recorded as a footman working for the Godsal family at Iscoyd Park in 1911) - see below. Ralph was the nephew of Richard James Newbrook (1874-1942) a music teacher and the organist/choirmaster of Castle Hill Chapel commemorated on the south wall of the nave of St. John's.

Resting Place: Plot 1.A 42. Canadian Cemetery No. 2. Canadian Cemetery No. 2 is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground for the dead of World War I situated on the grounds of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial Park near the French town of Neuville-Saint-Vaast.

The cemetery was originally named CD 5 and established as a battlefield cemetery of the Canadian 4th Division for Canadian troops killed in the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The cemetery now contains the graves of 2,965 Commonwealth soldiers, a large portion of which are unidentified. The cemetery covers an area of 10,869 square metres and is enclosed by low walls of coursed stone.

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Ralph Drake Newbrook: 1911 Census Return



Canadian Cemetery No.2 at Neuville-St.-Vaast

Stanley Victor Newbrook

Birth Place: Whitchurch - 1891

Date of Death: 25th April 1916 - France/Flanders

Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Enlistment Location: Chester

Rank: Sergeant

Regiment: Royal Welsh Fusiliers - 2nd Battalion

Service Number: 10275

Stanley was the younger brother of Ralph Drake Newbrook, whose death is also commemorated amongst those from Castle Hill Chapel. Stanley enlisted in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1909 and never married. Ralph was also the nephew of Richard James Newbrook (see above).

Resting Place: Commemorated on Panel 51 of the Loos Memorial, which commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area near the River Lys and Grenay. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated.



2nd Division Royal Welsh Fusiliers (just returned from India) marching at Portland in March 1914. It is possible that Stanley Newbrook was amongst these men.

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Stanley Victor Newbrook: 1901 Census Record



Loos Memorial

George Henry Pointon

Birth Place: Hadnall - 1882

Date of Death: 15th June 1917 – France/Flanders

Type of Casualty: Died - probably of disease rather than enemy action

Enlistment Location: Shrewsbury

Rank: Private *Regiment:* 59th Company, Labour Corps. In April 1917 18th & 19th (Labour) Battalions of the Cheshire Regiment were transferred to the Labour Corps. A labour company was usually for men not rated A1 fit.

Service Number: 35146 (formerly 35808 of the Cheshire Regiment)

George Henry was the son of railway signalman George Pointon (1848-1919) and Hannah Done (1852-1936). George Snr. was born in Sutton Maddock (Shifnal), Hannah was born in Myddle, and they married in Wem in 1878. As well as George Henry, they had 4 other children, Edwin Clement (1879-1975), John Edward (1884-1980), Mary Elizabeth (1886-1956 - married Charles Evans in Whitchurch in 1942) and Hannah Louisa (1889-1969). In 1891 the family were living in Astley Lane, Atcham. In 1901 (see Census) George Henry was working as a general labourer and living in Broughton near Wem with his uncle Thomas Forrester, a 30 year-old butcher. Also in the household were his Aunt Mary (42) - his mother's sister, and his brother John Edward, who was then aged 16 and working for his uncle Thomas as a butcher. No entry for George Henry or his brother Thomas can be found in the 1911 Census. Their father and mother were living at Marley Green, Marbury with their two daughters at this time, and Uncle Thomas and Aunt Mary were by then running a smallholding at Yorton Heath, but George Henry was not with them. George Henry's brother Edwin was running a confectionary business in Whitchurch in 1911, and he and their two sisters, as well as their mother all died in Whitchurch. Probate for George Henry's estate of £148:1/- was awarded to his Aunt Mary on 14th November 1917. His place of abode was recorded as Higher Heath at the time of his death.

Resting Place: Plot V11.B.11 Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas-De Calais, France. Posthumously awarded Victory and British Medals.

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George Henry Pointon: 1901 Census



Grevillers British Cemetery

Jacob Griffiths

Birth Place: Whitchurch - 1887

Date of Death: 24th August 1914 – France/Flanders

Type of Casualty: Killed in action *Enlistment Location:* Whitchurch

Rank: Private Regiment: 1st Cheshire Service Number: 7597

Jacob Griffiths was baptised at Castle Hill Methodist Chapel on 19th February 1887. In the 1901 Census he was recorded as living, aged 15, at 5 Folly Lane, off Yardington, with his father Jacob Snr. (a general labourer aged 50 and born in Whitchurch), and lodgers (both charwomen) Elenor (sic) Hall, 35, and Sarah J Forrester, 41 (both also born in Whitchurch). At this time Jacob Jnr. was working as an 'errand boy, post'. His mother was, for some reason, missing from the 1901 Census.

Jacob's parents were Jacob (1851-1907) and Sarah Ann Argreaves (sic) Walley (1851-?) who were married on 5th November 1871 in Whitchurch. In the 1911 Census, 24-year-old Jacob Jnr. was recorded as living at 41 Hancock St. Rusholme Manchester, and working as a bricksetter's labourer. Also at that address were his widowed mother Sarah Ann, 57, (b. Market Drayton) and working as a charwoman, his 22-year-old brother Thomas, a bricksetter, and Thomas's wife Lillian Elsie, a 22-year-old 'General Servant (Domestick)' (sic) from Greenheys Lancashire (Manchester).

Jacob joined the Cheshire Regiment on 17th June 1904 on a short service contract, under which he agreed to serve for 3 years 'with colours' (the regular army), then to serve a further 9 years in the 'First Class of the Army Reserve'. His occupation at this time was 'Bricklayer's Labourer'. On the date of Jacob's enlistment he stated that he was already serving in the 3rd Shropshire Light Infantry, which would have been a special reserve battalion not obliged to fight overseas.

After being called up again at the outbreak of WW1, Jacob disembarked in France on 18th August 1914 and was 'killed in action' 6 days later. He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914 Star. No record of his resting place has been found.

	NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	Uant 3 acid	GE Sirthday) SEX.	PART	CULARS	as to MJ	ARRIAGE		1000	PROFESSI of Persons ago	ION or OCCUPATION ed ten years and upwards.		and the	BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIEN
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	who 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 survived in the survived in the survived in the survived in the survived in the survived	State whother "Hoad," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Echative, "Visitor,"	state ti in mon	one year the age eths as ne month," month," ste,	Write "Single," "Marroed," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons	Completed justed justed Marriage Marriage Marriage Marriage Marriage Column 7).			n born	If engaged in	ld show the precise branch of Trade, Manufacture, &c. any Trade or Manufacture, the of work down and the Article	This question should generate the basiness carried on the present employer. If this is clearly shown in GoAl (1) the basiness carried on the clearly shown in GoAl (1) the basiness carried on the present on the shown. The shown is the question need not be associated because a second shown in the shown is the shown in the shown is the shown i	Write the words "At Bone" opposite the mane of each	 If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependence, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. 	year of nata ralisation.	d Dea and (2) (3) (4)	
	morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. o one else must be included. r order of estering names see Examples on back of Schedule.	" Boarder," or " Servant."	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females	all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	has	Total Children Born Alive.	Gallees still Liring.		be clearly is	ad of work done, and the Article terial worked or dealt in about finated. • I to 8 and Examples on back	answered here. No entry seeded for Domestic Ser- vants in private employeant. If employed by a public holy (Governounes, Mannipol, etc. state wise body. (See Instruction 9 and Eram- ples on back of Schedulo.)	(2) "Worker" that	person currying on Tradic or Industry at hume.	(4) If horn at any, write "At Ses." NOTE.—In the case of persons bern elsewhere than in Englassi or Wales, state whether "Essentest" or "Visiter" in this Country.	nationality state whothe	or opp
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1911 Census showing entry for Jacob Griffiths



A Whitchurch Herald entry from May 27th 2015 recording the Council's decision to add Jacob's name to the Whitchurch War Memorial.



Men of the 18th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Regiment



Royal Welsh Fusiliers marching through Aberystwyth