

William Webster Stark

Private 2475

1/10th (Scottish) Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment).

The Liverpool Scottish



William Webster Stark was born 27th July 1894 in Childwall, Liverpool. His father was John Swainson Stark who had been born at Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Kircudbrightshire, and his mother was Margaret Stark (*née* Williams). William was the traditional family name for a first-born son, and Webster was his maternal grandmother's maiden name.

At the time of the 1901 census he was at home at 55 Alderson Rd Wavertree, aged six. The family there was his father, then a Manager of a Sugar Warehouse, his mother, and sisters Elizabeth, aged five, Charlotte aged three and one year old Frances.

On 27th January 1905 John Swainson died in Liverpool Royal Infirmary of heart failure and pneumonia. He was only 42. At the time of his death he was a "Commercial Clerk" living at 14 Holland Street. Margaret now widowed, had six children to care for. William, the eldest was still only ten.

To ease her burden, William and his sister Elizabeth were sent for education at Girthon Public School in Gatehouse of Fleet, where his late grandfather had been a schoolmaster. They were cared for by their aunts in the town.

Sometime before 1911 the family moved from Wavertree to 400 Edge Lane in nearby Fairfield, and at some point William attended the local school there, Birchfield Road School. The exact dates of when he was at school in Scotland and Liverpool are unclear but It is likely he would have left school at the age of 15.

By the time of the 1911 census, the family now at Edge Lane, 16-year-old William was a junior Clerk. The household comprised his mother Margaret, William, Elizabeth who was also employed as a clerk aged 15, Charlotte, (13), John (8), and Alec (7). His other sister, Frances aged 11, was now living with her aunts in Gatehouse of Fleet. 400 Edge Lane was close to Edge Lane station (now closed). The house is no longer there, the area subsumed by a modern commercial park.

William's job as a clerk was at Wm Crawford & Sons, the biscuit manufacturer, whose factory was only a couple of hundred yards from his home.

In 1912, at the age of seventeen, William joined the Territorial Army. His local unit was the 1/10th (Scottish) Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment). This battalion was known as the Liverpool Scottish and he had his official medical and was sworn in on 6th May 1912. He was aged seventeen years and ten months, and according to his military record was 5' 8¾" tall. He was posted into E Company.

The Liverpool Scottish

The Liverpool Scottish was formed as an infantry battalion in 1900 in response to the crisis of the Boer War. It had an establishment of 1000 men, raised from educated and professional young Scotsmen in the city as the 8th (Scottish) Volunteer Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment). The founding Commanding Officer was Colonel C. Forbes Bell, and the Forbes tartan kilt was adopted by the regiment. The HQ was established in Fraser Street in the Liverpool city centre.

The Battalion was re-designated in 1908 on the establishment of the Territorial Force as the 1/10th (Scottish) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment) with new bonnet and sporran badges. New colours were presented by King Edward VII at Knowsley Hall on 5th July 1909, and consecrated by Bishop Francis Chavasse, father of the battalion's future Medical Officer.

William's reason for joining the territorials was possibly the prospect of adventurous training camps, and military activities contrasting attractively with the hum-drum life of a clerk in Liverpool. His Scottish heritage would have been another strong factor in choosing the Liverpool Scottish - recruits had to have either a Scottish parent or grandparent. They were required to be at least five feet six inches tall and measure at least thirty-five inches round the chest. They had to pay an annual subscription of ten shillings. A sense of pride was cultivated in their unit and this was greatly encouraged by the Training and Recruitment Sergeant (later Lt-Col) Donald Farmer VC.

At the time of William's joining up there was disquiet in national government circles about Germany's military ambitions, indeed the secretary of State for War, Richard Haldane (under whose control the Territorials were created) had personally been involved in discussions with the German Kaiser about arms reductions and later an initiative to discuss rival naval strengths. However, it seems unlikely that a war with Germany was at all visible on the life horizon of William Stark in 1912.

Directly across the road from the Starks lived the Trotter family at 397 Edge Lane. Walter and Agnes Trotter had a son, Harold who was a couple of years younger than William. Harold later also joined the Liverpool Scottish, possibly encouraged to do so from the example of his friend and neighbour.

As a private in the Territorials William's routine would have been evening drills, weekend camps, musketry tests, annual camp and other specialist courses. Orders (such as details of

forthcoming camps) appeared in newspapers and went by post. The infantry recruit was committed to at least 40 one-hour drills in his first year, and then 20 annually once 'trained'. Musketry was very important but once the 90 rounds annual allocation was fired, any extra had to be purchased. Liverpool Territorials would travel by train to Altcar, the firing ranges south of Formby after work on Wednesdays and Fridays, shoot in the evening, possibly staying overnight in the Liverpool Scottish's own hut there, and taking the train back to work next morning.

Weekend camps were less frequent as there was difficulty in financing travel. For many people Saturday morning working was normal, therefore Saturday afternoon training was common. The main thrust of training was so Territorials worked towards the same professional skills as the Regular Army. Church Parade took place at regular intervals preceded by a Commanding Officer's Review in Sefton Park before the march back to the Church of St Andrew in Rodney Street.

Annual camp lasted either 8 or 15 days, men attending for only the shorter period being common as these camps had to be taken during employment holidays and often a two-week break was not possible. However 'second-week' attendance measured a unit's efficiency and was rewarded with a £1 bounty (perhaps 60% of a weekly wage). In 1912 the battalion travelled to Gales in Ayrshire where it spent the first week at camp there. The second was spent on an extended route march from Balloch, alongside Loch Lomond to Crianlarich and then east through Callander and Dunblane to Stirling from there back to Liverpool by train. This would have been William's first annual camp. Regimental records state that it was greatly enjoyed by all ranks, despite "disappointing weather". The camp in 1913 was at Denbigh.

It is likely that his membership of the battalion was a central and very important part of William's life. This would have been balanced with his role as "the man of the house" and main wage earner at home. His siblings at this time were Charlotte (19), Elizabeth (18), Frances (14), John (12) and Alexander (10).

The prospect of war dawned gradually on the ordinary people of Britain. The newspapers in late June 1914 reported the assassination of an Austrian archduke in far-away Serbia but gave no clue as to the cataclysmic chain of events this triggered.

Monday 27th July 1914 was William's twentieth birthday. This was not a drill night, so William very likely spent it as a normal day at work followed by an evening at home with his mother, sisters and brothers. The international situation was moving rapidly, so William's birthday would have been dominated by the ominous possibility of war.

In Europe, in accordance with various alliances, ultimatums were issued and were defied. Austria declared war on Serbia on 28th July. Serbia's ally, Russia, ordered general mobilization on the 30th. Germany as the ally of Austria mobilized and declared war on Russia on 1st August, whilst demanding that France remain neutral. France refused, and on 3rd August Germany declared war on France. Faced with war on two fronts Germany immediately invaded neutral Belgium which stood in the way of a pre-emptive strike on France. Britain, who had a Treaty with Belgium sent an ultimatum to Germany to withdraw by 11pm on the 4th August. Germany ignored this and so Britain too was at war.

The Liverpool Scottish had planned their annual training camp to run from 2nd to 16th August 1914 at Hornby near Lancaster. The battalion, despite the deteriorating international situation, travelled there on the afternoon of 2nd August.

However, at two o'clock the following morning the Commanding Officer received a telegram with orders to return to Liverpool. Camp was struck hastily, and they arrived back in the early evening. After parading at Fraser Street everyone was sent home and told to be available to report to HQ at a moment's notice. So William would have made his way back to Edge Lane as the final hours of peace ticked away.

On 5th August, with a state of war having formally existed since 11pm the previous evening, the Liverpool Scottish were mobilised.

Over the next three days equipment was issued, stores drawn, and medical checks undergone, and on 8th August, William was amongst the 600 men who reported to Battalion HQ in Fraser Street. Some were then billeted at the Shakespeare Theatre and some (including William's E Company) at the Liverpool Boxing Stadium.



Billeted in the Boxing Stadium

After a few more days on training marches, parades and doing war-work at the docks they travelled by train to Edinburgh on 13th August with the rest of the South Lancashire Brigade. Here, living in bell-tents in Kings Park near Holyrood, they spent the next two months mostly training but also being part of the Forth Defences. They were joined there in early September by their Medical Officer, Noel Chavasse RAMC. Noel Chavasse had been attached to the Liverpool Scottish since 2nd June 1913 and served with them until he was killed on 4th August 1917. During his service he was awarded the Military Cross and almost uniquely, the Victoria Cross and bar.

As part of the preparations for war service Chavasse initiated the vaccination of the entire battalion against typhoid.



E Coy. Kit inspection at Edinburgh. William is on far right



Private William Webster Stark

William's routine at Edinburgh began at 6.45am with PT drill, followed by company and battalion training until 4.30pm, often with lectures after tea as well. It was reported that what were considered as "partially trained civilians" were transformed into a skilled body of whole-time soldiers.

On 9th October orders were received to move to Tunbridge Wells in Kent prior to embarkation overseas. So William, along with the rest of the battalion travelled south by train on 10th October.

On 27th October they received further orders that they would depart overseas on 1st November. Territorials were by default signed up for service in the UK only. William formally volunteered for foreign service on 29th October 1914. In the short intervening period before departure many men's families travelled down to Tunbridge to see their loved one before he left for the war. Whether William's mother did so is not known.



Final farewells over, on the 1st November the Liverpool Scottish travelled by train to the docks at Southampton and boarded their transport ship, SS Maidan, which would take them to France.

The SS Maidan cast off at 7.30pm that evening and headed at full speed (to avoid submarines), past the Isle of Wight, escorted in calm seas by a couple of destroyers. It was a cargo boat in use as a troopship and the sleeping accommodation was the floor of the cargo hold and far from comfortable.

They sighted land as daylight was breaking and at 7.30 am on Monday 2nd November SS Maiden hove to off Le Havre. The ship had missed the tide, so it cruised around until 10pm when it tied up for the night. The weather was warm and fine, and the men spent the day lounging the decks looking ashore, their first sight of France, close enough to see people ashore waving at them.

In the evening the Liverpool Scottish and the other battalion on board, the Queens Westminsters, had a jolly sing-song which everyone joined in enthusiastically.

At 6.30 on the morning of 3rd November it was barely light as the battalion finally came ashore, stepping onto French soil for the first time .

They formed up and marched through the town to spend their first night in France in a tented camp just outside Le Havre. Most of the men wrote home, for the first time their letters being scrutinised by censors to ensure no unguarded information slipped through.

The following morning William and his colleagues packed their kit and marched back into Le Havre and the town railway station. After a wait of four hours, they boarded a train. Officers were accommodated in carriages however the other ranks piled into converted cattle trucks with the words "*Hommes 40, Chevaux 8*" stencilled on the side. After a further long wait the train finally pulled out at 7pm and made slow and frequently halting progress across northern France via Rouen and Abbeville to St Omer. The journey took 27 hours and they arrived at 9.45pm on 5th November in pouring rain.

Despite the late hour and bad weather the battalion still had a three mile march to their billets in a château at Blendeques, a small village on the River Aa to the south-east of St Omer. Unfortunately the chateau was home for only one night, the following day they moved to a nearby farm where life was much more basic.

Two weeks were spent at Blendeques training, this included trench digging but was principally practice attacks across the open countryside – mostly in atrocious weather. It was unsettling that the Front was only 25 miles away, close enough for the gunfire to be audible. Occasionally German aeroplanes could be seen, as well as British machines which were based nearby.

On 17th November the battalion was part of a funeral honour-guard for Field Marshall Lord Roberts, the colonel-in-chief of forces from the Dominions. He had been visiting Indian troops when he caught a chill which developed into fatal pneumonia. The Liverpool Scottish were reported as being "most impressive" and the cortege included Prince Arthur of Connaught and the Prince of Wales (future Edward VIII).

The battalion was at this time in reserve for the First Battle of Ypres – however they were not called upon.

They left Blendeques on 20th November for a twenty-mile march to Bailleul close to the border with Belgium. It took two days (stopping overnight at Hazebrouk) and the wintry conditions took its toll. Many of the men were wearing spats, rather than the puttees and boots which were more suitable. Eventually 400 pairs of boots were delivered but had to be worn without being properly broken in. The roads were snow covered and icy and men suffered injuries due to falls. An additional problem was with kilts freezing, causing chafing and sores. Lice added to the difficulties.

They arrived in Bailleul, less than two miles from the Belgian border on 21st, (actually crossing the border for the first time on 22nd) and over the following week trained and marched in that area. At

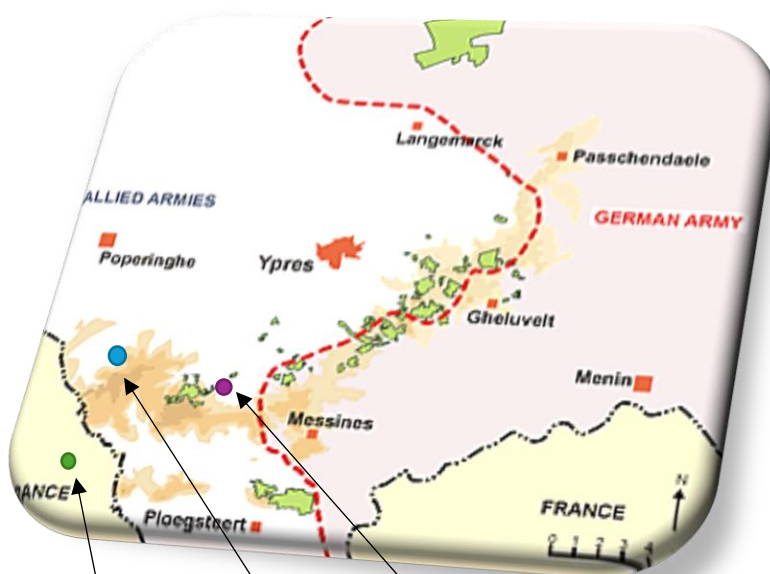
one point they met men of the London Scottish battalion who were returning from the trenches. In peacetime they had been frequent opponents on the sports field.

On 25th November the battalion was drawn up for inspection by General Smith-Dorrien who was accompanied by the Prince of Wales. The General complimented the Liverpools and told them that all they had to do was pin the Germans down, allowing the Russians to smash through to Berlin in the spring. The war, he said, would be over by the summer. His audience was very surprised - they had not thought it would last so long!

It was at this time that the battalion became part of a Regular Army Brigade and so it was necessary for the Company structure to be adapted slightly to conform with the Brigade organisation. Some Companies were combined and renamed V, X, Y and Z Companies. William was in 11 Platoon, Y Company.

For a few nights the battalion was billeted near the Belgian village of Westouter (about five miles north of Bailleul) and final training given for their imminent advance to the front line.

On 27th November they marched up to the trenches (about six miles away), passing through the deserted village of Kimmell.



The front line at the end of November 1914 .

Bailleul Westouter Kimmell.

Two days later the Liverpool Scottish suffered their first fatality. On 29th November Y Company under command of Captain Arthur Twentyman went up to the firing line. Capt. Twentyman was shot by a sniper and killed instantly. His body was later recovered under fire by Noel Chavasse and a party of stretcher-bearers. It is not known whether William was in this stretcher party, however the following day in a letter home Chavasse described the return of the Company thus:-
“The young chaps were haggard, white, and stooped like old men, but they had done gallantly.”

Any notion that the war was to be glamorous and exciting was gone forever. This was grim and terrible. And worse was to come.

Apart from the Germans, one of the great enemies of the British soldier in the winter of 1914 was trench-foot. The conditions in the trenches were appalling, with mud and water up to waist height, cold and inescapable. Sanitation was non-existent and so the state of any sheltered land nearby was sordid in the extreme. Deliveries of hot drinks and food was erratic as the supply routes from the field kitchen became impassable in the mud and terrible ground conditions.

The Liverpool Scottish was involved in a number of contacts with the enemy during December including on 21st when a section from Y Company was caught in the open on a moonlit night and lost four men killed and six wounded before they were able to reach the cover of a trench.

The battalion was fortunate to be out of the line on Christmas Day 1914. It was frosty and the ground was hard and dry. The men paraded in a field near the billets at 12.30 where mail and presents were distributed. Later the Pipe Band played, and carols were sung, and finally every man received a pipe and tobacco and a plum pudding (NCOs got a cigar and the officers a full Christmas Dinner!)

January 1915 arrived and the conditions continued to be appalling. Some small improvements to life at the front were achieved with the arrival of braziers and goatskin coats.

On the occasions that the battalion was sent up to the front they were severely stretched by a shortage of manpower. This meant that longer periods were spent in the most difficult positions as there were no extra troops to relieve them there. This was improved somewhat on 30th January with the arrival of four officers and 302 other ranks to reinforce the battalion strength.

The Liverpool Scottish were told that they were to move to Ypres. Accordingly on 2nd March they advanced to Ouderdom (4 miles SW of Ypres) where they remained until 10th March, at which point they set off to experience the notorious Ypres Salient.

The town of Ypres itself although utterly destroyed later in the war, at this time still had some shops and cafes operating. There was little time to enjoy these treats as the battalion proceeded to new trenches near the village of Zillebeke to the east of Ypres town. These new trenches were much deeper and drier than those of the recent past and consequently more comfortable. On the other hand the enemy heavy fire was more concentrated and casualties were sustained.

A more terrifying event occurred on 12th March when a German mine exploded to the immediate left of the Liverpool Scottish position. The Germans had tunnelled beneath the British Line, packed the excavation with explosives and detonated it. A platoon of Royal Scots Fusiliers took the brunt and were buried. Despite thirteen casualties the Liverpools were highly commended for their rescue work and swift action to cover the gap in the line with machine guns.

The battalion remained in this sector until 3rd April when they moved to the area around St Eloi, south of Ypres town. On the whole St Eloi was quieter with enemy action being confined to sniping and some shelling. On 14th April another German mine exploded nearby, this time causing serious casualties to the Northumberland Fusiliers. Again the Liverpool Scottish were highly commended for their rescue work and swift action to cover the gap in the line.

During May the battalion occupied various positions to the east of Ypres until on 10th June they were ordered to a bivouac camp near Busseboom, five miles west of Ypres, and commenced special training, the emphasis being bomb throwing and getting through and over barbed wire.

The Liverpool Scottish were being prepared to be part of an attack at Hooge.

Hooge is a small village on the Menin Road just over two miles east of Ypres. The Germans occupied a salient with trenches on a low ridge which gave direct views to Ypres. Behind the enemy line was a farm called Bellewaarde, which gave its name to the subsequent action – the Battle of Bellewaarde.

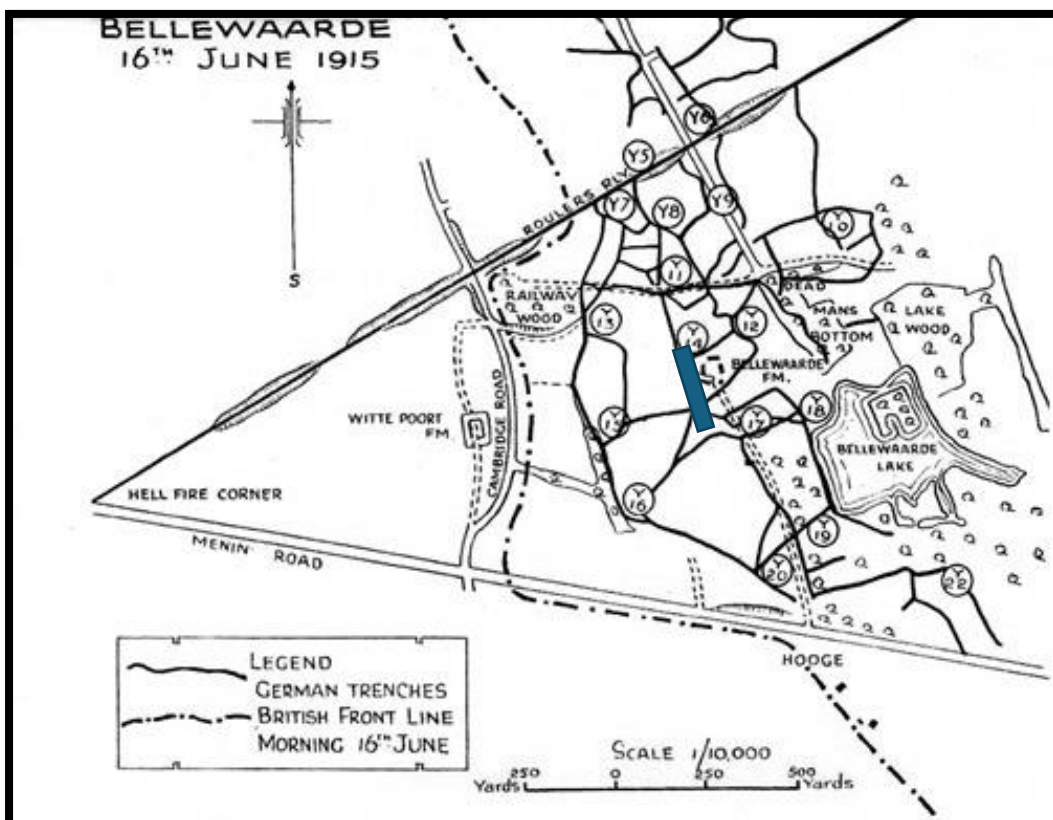
Their dominating position gave the Germans a direct line of fire onto one of the Allies' major supply routes and to Ypres beyond. A particularly exposed spot was the junction of the Menin Road and the Rouler railway; now a busy modern roundabout, this junction was so dangerous it was dubbed Hell Fire Corner.

The plan was to assemble at the bottom of the slope west of the enemy lines and attack them directly. The British front line was a lane running north from the Menin Road dubbed Cambridge Road. At the northern edge of the battle ground was a copse next to the railway, named Railway Wood.

Tactics for the battle were that there would be a three stage leap-frog action.

Firstly the Royal Fusiliers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and the Northumberland Fusiliers would attack the enemy front line of trenches (Y13, Y15, Y16 in map of battlefield below) When this was taken the Liverpool Scottish and the Lincolns would pass through and capture the second line (Y11, Y14, Y17 below). The Liverpool's target was the north half of this objective (blue line below). The flanks would also be secured during this second phase by units of 7th Brigade. The Liverpool Scottish's disposition for this action was: X Y and V, each two platoons were to attack in the first wave with, two more platoons in support.

Finally the three battalions of the first wave would go forward and capture a line from Y8 to Y 18.



William and the rest of the Liverpool Scottish marched off from Busseboom at 4pm on 15th June. According to regimental records morale was high, the men relishing the prospect of “really having a go at the enemy”. In reality the young soldiers would be keenly aware of the dangers ahead.

At the time of the battle William was listed as an “officer’s servant” a duty which later became known as “batman”. His exact duties are not known but would have been attending to the personal needs of his officer – possibly preparing meals, laundry, running errands and messages. There were five such “servants” listed on the Company strength; two actually went into battle, of which William was one.

They reached the assembly point by the Cambridge Road at about midnight. There would be little sleep for the men as the British guns opened up at 2.50am and continued until 4.15. This bombardment and the obvious troop movements could have left the Germans in no doubt that an attack was imminent.

At 4.15am the three battalions of phase one started the assault. They took their objectives, but not before some casualties were incurred by their own bombardment, or in a modern phrase, “friendly fire”.

The Liverpool Scottish began their attack immediately. The regimental record is quite detailed in describing the actions of the various Companies. At times it was hand-to-hand fighting, and mention is made that men of Y Company, “seeing a machine-gun in action bombed their way along the trench to it, capturing the gun and killing a number of the enemy”. V Company too when advancing through Railway Wood encountered enemy machine gun positions which were overcome in close combat with bayonets.



Photo of Liverpool Scottish soldiers during the Battle of Bellewaarde, 16 June 1915.

The line near Y11 was achieved quite quickly so Lt-Col Thin gave orders to exploit this advantage and to press on to the third objective. However, unaware of this, some troops stopped at the second line. Here they suffered from enemy shelling. Some men continued even further and pushed on towards a position named on the battlefield maps as “Dead Man’s Bottom”. They were never seen again.

The third line trench was successfully captured however the necessary consolidation did not follow. They came under sustained machine gun fire from enemy positions near Y5 and Y6. The

position became untenable and a withdrawal was ordered back to the second line trenches. Some of these had already been re-occupied by the Germans and so a retreat to the first line followed.

Militarily the operation had some elements of success however the cost in casualties was grievous. From a battalion strength of 520 men only 140 survived alive and unwounded. The losses were nearly 200 killed, about half of those initially listed as missing but later confirmed or assumed as dead. Among them was William Webster Stark.

The Company Quartermaster Sergeant of Y Company, Robert Scott-Macfie, conducted a post battle nominal roll (head count) of all his men.

Below is an image of MacFie's original field note book. The cross indicates that William was known to have gone forward into battle, The "W" indicates that at some point someone reported him as being seen wounded, and the "M" indicates that he was not recovered and was missing.¹



Company Quartermaster Sergeant (later Regimental QMS) Macfie's meticulous records show that of the 149 men of Y Company who went into battle only 40 returned injured. 13 men were known killed, 23 were listed as missing, later presumed killed and 73 were wounded.

The exact circumstances of William's death will never be known. His body was never found and he has no known grave. We know that at some point he was seen wounded, after which possibly he was hit by one of the thousands of shells fired that day; of a human body so struck, little will remain. William's neighbour from across the road in Liverpool, Harold Trotter, was killed too, aged only 18.

¹ Robert Andrew Scott Macfie was one of the most colourful characters of the Liverpool Scottish. He was a chemistry graduate of Cambridge University, a scholar of the Romany culture, and Managing Director of one of the principal sugar refineries in Liverpool. William's father worked at a Sugar warehouse, possibly part of Macfie's business, and the 1921 census shows William's youngest brother, Alexander as being employed by the Macfie company.

Following his being listed as wounded and missing, it is not known at which point this became a confirmation or assumption of his death, although official regimental records in August indicate that that by then he was assumed killed.

Enquires were also made by the British Red Cross and Order of St John, who produced an official list of missing servicemen about whom enquiries have been made. William appears on the list issued on 30th August 1915, however it is not clear whether these enquiries were instigated by the family or the Army. The List describes William as “Missing” so clearly no hard information was discovered about his fate, therefore we cannot know with certainty the timing and exact nature of the official notification his mother Margaret received. The next of kin of casualties were informed by a telegram from the War office in London, and the sight of the Telegram Boy was dreaded.

We can imagine the news was devastating. Margaret had been widowed ten years earlier and so had to raise her family alone. Now William was dead and her five remaining children were Elizabeth (19), Charlotte (18), Frances (15), John (just 13) and Alec (11). Across the road Mr and Mrs Trotter also mourned the loss of a son. It was a tough time.

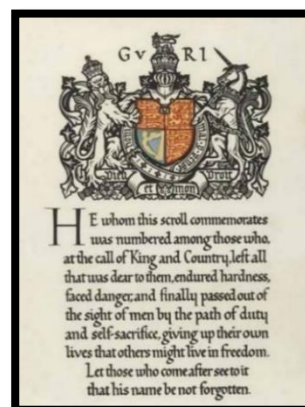
According to the military records, Margaret took delivery of William’s medals in February 1921.



1914 Star British War Medal Allied Victory Medal

The 1914 star was awarded to members of the British Expeditionary Force who landed in France between 5th August 1914 and 22nd November 1914. Servicemen who arrived after that date and before the end of 1915 were awarded the 1914/15 medal. All men who served on active service at any time during the war received the British War medal and the Victory Medal.

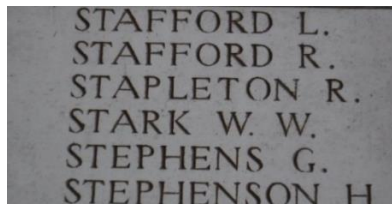
In 1919 the government began to send a bronze Memorial Plaque to the next of kin of every serviceman killed in the war. It was a large item (120mm or 4½ inches in diameter) and was known as the Death Penny or Widows penny.



Accompanying the plaque a scroll was issued which represented a personal message from the King.

William has no known grave, but he is commemorated in a number of places.

Firstly, along with 54,000 other officers and men who went missing in the war, his name is on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.



At Gatehouse of Fleet he appears on two memorials; one inside the parish church:



And the other, outside on the town War Memorial.



He is also named on the war memorial originally located at his school in Birchwood Road, Liverpool. The brass plaque has been relocated in the new Phoenix School which was built on the site when Birchwood was demolished in 2000. His friend and neighbour Harold Trotter who died in the same battle as William is also commemorated on the school memorial



Finally, he is included on the Williams family memorial in Childwall churchyard in Liverpool, which also commemorates both his parents, as well as his maternal grandparents.

The full inscription reads:-



Sacred to the Memory of

THOMAS WILLIAMS
FORMERLY OF THIS PARISH
WHO DIED 18TH OCTR 1885 AGED 62 YEARS
And was interred in Chester Cemetery
Also ALICE WIFE OF THE ABOVE
WHO DIED 6TH MAY 1896 IN HER 67TH YEAR
ALSO JOHN S STARK SON-IN-LAW OF
THE ABOVE, DIED 27TH JAN 1905
AGED 42 YEARS.
ALSO ELIZABETH (LILLY)
THE BELOVED WIFE OF JAMES ALLAN MD
OF LEEDS
AND DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE
THOMAS & ALICE WILLIAMS
DIED JUNE 28TH 1911.

Memorial

PTE WILLIAM WEBSTER STARK
LIVERPOOL REGT
LEFT ALL THAT WAS DEAR TO HIM,
ENDURED HARDSHIP & DANGER, FINALLY
PASSED OUT OF THE SIGHT OF MEN
BY THE PATH OF DUTY & SACRIFICE
IN THE GREAT WAR 1915
A BRAVE LIFE GIVEN, THAT OTHERS
MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM. MOTHER
MARGARET STOBIE NÉE STARK
DIED MARCH 16TH 1945 AGED 78 YEARS
RIP.



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