

St James Catholic Church



Roll of Honour - Part 1

1914 – 1918

1939 – 1945



CONTENTS

<u>PART 1</u>	Page
Introduction	2
Deaths in Chronological Order	3
Joseph Winstanley	4
Albert Webster	5
Henry Bernard Ward	6
Edward Gibbons	7
Frederick Charles Pugh	8 and 9
George Jackson	10
Fred Latham	11 & 12
John McNamara	13
Bernard Philip Pugh	14
Pugh family	15
Sidney H Wright	16
Sources and acknowledgements	
<u>PART 2</u>	
Those discovered during research	17
Richard Halton	18
James & Thomas Speakman	19
Thomas Clare	20
Thomas Simm	21
John Unsworth	22
Joseph Alban Eckersley	23
John Barton	24
Leonard A Fieldhouse	25
Frederick Arkwright	26
Appendix 1 - The Memorial Chapel	27/28
Memorial Chapel – October 2014	29
Appendix 2 - Dedication Service in 1922	30
Appendix 3 – Stations of the Cross Memorial	31
Appendix 4 – War dead who attended St James School	32
Acknowledgements	33

INTRODUCTION

In 2013, it was agreed that a new Memorial Board be commissioned in memory of the 10 parishioners who died in the First World War and for whom the memorial chapel was built. Additionally, a Roll of Honour book would be compiled in order that all those who fell would become “more than just a name”. The aim was to complete the work by September 2014 in time for the anniversary of the dedication of the chapel in September 1922.

The parish history, compiled by Fr K Smith, listed the war dead but gave no other information, the list is confirmed in an article in the Wigan Observer dated Tuesday 19th September –

“ His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool,(blessed), on Sunday morning a memorial chapel, which had been dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Fifty seven members of the congregation worshipping there served in His Majesty’s Forces during the Great War of these ten had laid down their lives.” “The Rector (Rev. Fr. W. Parkinson) read out the names of those who had made the supreme sacrifice viz.

Captain Sidney Wright,
E Gibbons,
George Jackson,
F. Latham,
J.McNamara,
F. Pugh,
B. Pugh,
H. Ward,
A. Webster
J. Winstanley

And His Grace blessed the New Chapel and Baptistry[sic]”

Research has enabled us to fill in most of the details but also uncovered others from the parish who died in both World Wars. These ‘new’ names are included on the Memorial Board and in this booklet.

As many details as possible are given in the space available, but, inevitably, more information is available about the lives and deaths of some.

All details are thought to be correct, at September 2014 but if you believe you can contribute more, or correct any information, please contact, mike_seddon@live.co.uk , or the Parish Secretary, Mrs Jeanette White, ☎01695 622476 or at stjamesorrell@live.co.uk

M.W.S

05/11/2014

DEATHS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

WW1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Age</u>
Private Joseph Winstanley	9th May 1915	23
Private Albert Webster	12th July 1915	18
Private Henry B. Ward	2nd September 1915	33
Private Edward Gibbons	28th November 1915	18
Private Frederick C. Pugh	4th July 1916	33
Private George Jackson	5th August 1916	22
L.Cpl. Fred Latham (M.M.)	7th June 1917	28
Private John McNamara	7th June 1917	23
L.Sgt. Bernard Pugh	23rd June 1917	22
Capt. Sidney H Wright	10th February 1919	45

The following are commemorated or are buried in our cemetery and were found during research.

WW1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Age</u>
S/Sgt Richard Halton	29 th November 1915	28
Private Thomas Speakman	10 th April 1916	20
Private James Speakman	15 th September 1917	23
Air Mechanic Thomas Clare	26 th February 1918	29
Private Thomas Simm	21 st April 1920	37

WW2

Captain John Unsworth	2 nd January 1941	44
S/Observer Joseph A. Eckersley	26 th January 1942	21
Sergeant John Barton	31 st March 1943	21
Aircraftsman Leonard A Fieldhouse	23 rd September 1943	33
Driver Frederick Arkwright	1 st February 1945	27

◆ Joseph Winstanley ◆

Born: 14 April 1892, **Baptised:** St James, Orrell, 8th May 1892 ⁽ⁱ⁾

Address: 18 Higher Lane, Upholland, ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ **Attended St James School** ¹⁹ see Appendix 4.

Pre-war Occupation: Coal Miners Drawer, ⁽²⁾ (worked in the mines pushing or dragging the coal carts to the bottom of the pit)

Killed-in-action: 9th May 1915 – France. **Age 23** ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

Rank: Private. **Service Number** 16861, ⁽³⁾

Regiment: 2nd Bn., East Lancashire

Remembered: Ploegstreet Memorial BELGIUM, Panel 5 & 6

Joseph is commemorated in Belgium, but was posted ‘missing’ following the offensive to capture the Fromelles/Aubers Ridge, near Armentieres. The attack took place on the 9th May 1915 commencing with a bombardment at 5am, this failed to destroy the machine gun emplacements. By 1pm the battalion no longer existed as a fighting force – 10 officers were killed and 9 wounded, 63 other ranks killed, 325 wounded and 42 missing – one of whom was Joseph

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) states that Joseph was the son of the late James and Mary Winstanley, which indicates he was an orphan. Census information in 1901 shows him as the adopted son of Winifred Moran, and in 1911 still resident with her.

Joseph is commemorated on the family grave of Winifred Moran ^(iv, v), the inscription reads “Private Joseph Winstanley, killed in action while fighting for King and Country aged 24 years.”.



The Parish Baptismal Register, 1848 to 1935, shows Winifred and Andrew Moran where his godparents.

The Wigan Observer for 11th May 1918 carried the following Memorium.

In memory of Joseph Winstanley, foster son of Winifred Moran who was killed in action 9 May 1915 RIP

“An angel took my flower away
Yet I will not repine
For Jesus in his bosom keeps
The flower that once was mine”



◆Albert Webster◆

Born: About 1897 ⁽²⁾

Address: 1 Chapel Street, Pemberton⁽²⁾

Pre-war Occupation: Pony Driver in Coal Mine⁽²⁾

Died of Wounds: 12th July 1915 – Gallipoli **Age:** 18 ^(vi)

Rank: Private. **Service Number** PLY/778/S ⁽³⁾

Regiment: Royal Marine Light Infantry

Remembered: Helles Memorial, Panel 2 to 7

Information about Albert has been difficult to find and confirm. There is conflicting information about him but the best “fit” is that he was the son of John and Margaret Ellen Webster. The 1911 census gives Chapel Street, The Wigan Observer article of 24th July gives Wesley Street both in Pemberton and the CWGC gives Darlington Street Wigan.

The brief article in Wigan Observer states that he received a bullet to his left shoulder and was taken to St Georges Hospital in Malta. This article also give his regiment as 5th Manchester and that his Uncle was Councillor I. Pennington of Orrell.



◆ Henry B. Ward ◆

Born: 05 November 1881, ⁽²⁾ **Baptised:** St James, Orrell, 13th November 1881⁽¹⁾

Address: Holgate Cottage, Orrell⁽²⁾ **Attended St James School** ¹⁹ see Appendix 4.

Pre-war Occupation: Gardener, ⁽²⁾

Wounded: Gallipoli, died Egypt 2nd September 1915. Age: 33⁽³⁾

Rank: Private. **Service Number** 16909, ⁽³⁾

Regiment: 1st Bn., Border Regt.

Remembered: Chatby War Memorial Cemetery, Row F, Grave 57

Henry Bernard was the son of Peter and Ellen Ward, nee Glover, and in 1891^(vii) lived with his mother Ellen at Orrell Post. At this time he had 4 siblings living at home, John age 20, Nellie age 15, Jas(?) age 7 and Annie age 4. At the time of the 1901^(viii) census he was still living at home with his brother Joseph (Jas?) and sister Mary Anne (Annie?), he is listed as a brick makers labourer.

By 1911 he is living in Holgate Cottage, nr Holgate House, Moor Road, Orrell and has become a Gardener for a “gentleman”, and his remaining sibling, Mary Anne, is a shop assistant in a butchers.

^(5,ix)There is no service record for Henry but his regiment took part in the Dardanelles campaign. His battalion, as part of the 29th Division, sailed from Avonmouth on 17th March 1915 for Gallipoli, going via Egypt and Mudros. They landed at Cape Helles 25th April 1915. It is likely that he was wounded at Helles in an attack of the 6th – 13th August and evacuated to Egypt where he subsequently died. He is buried in Chatby Cemetery, near Alexandria, Egypt. No obituary was found in the Wigan Observer.



◆ Edward Gibbons ◆

Born: 30 August 1896⁽²⁾ **Baptised:** St James, Orrell, on 6th September 1896⁽¹⁾

Address: 1 Brindley Rose Hill, Pemberton⁽²⁾ **Attended St James School**¹⁹ see Appendix 4

Pre-war Occupation: Lap Carrier in Cotton Mill⁽²⁾

Died 28 November 1915, Gallipoli Age: 18^(x)

Rank: Private. **Service Number** 24246, ^(3, 10)

Regiment: 11th Battalion Manchester Regiment

Remembered: Hill 10 Cemetery, Gallipoli, Plot iii, Row B, Grave 5

Census returns show that Edward (Patrick⁽¹⁾) was the youngest son of Thomas and Sarah Gibbons, nee Deegan, and in 1901, age 4, he had 4 siblings – Thomas 16, Sarah 14, James 9, and Annie 8.

His father died (26th November 1907) and is buried at S James^{xi}. By 1911 he was living at home with his widowed mother and siblings but the family has grown – two new sisters who may have been absent at the time of 1901 census. The family is now Sarah, his mother age 53, Thomas age 26, Sarah age 24, James age 20, Edward now 14, and 2 new sisters Mary age 31, and DM(??) age 19 both described as domestic servants. All the children are employed, but Edward’s job of a “lap carrier” remains a mystery – can any one help.

It is not known when he enlisted but the Battalion was formed at Ashton-under-Lyne in August 1914 and formed part of the 34th INFANTRY BRIGADE and landed at Sulva Bay, Gallipoli on the 6th August 1914. The battalion history^(xii) indicates that they remained in action and suffered a “violent thunderstorm on the 26th November, hard frost followed and there was much suffering by the



soldiers. Some 200+ men were hospitalised by frostbite and hypothermia and 23 were discovered to be missing after the storms.” “On The 16th December they left from Suvla Point on board HMT Carron which sailed from Suvla with 27 officers and 689 other ranks. However, they had left behind 172 who still, to this day, remain forever part of the peninsular.” It was in this period that Edward died.

◆ Frederick Charles Pugh ◆

Born: About 1883 in Kemerton, Tewksberry ⁽⁷⁾

Address: 15 Earl Street, Wigan ⁽²⁾ Attended St James School ¹⁹ see Appendix 4

Pre-war Occupation: Coal Miner Hewer ⁽²⁾

Died 04 July 1916, The Somme, France **Age:** 34 ⁽³⁾

Rank: Private. **Service Number** 12573, ^(3,5,9)

Regiment: 7th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment

Remembered: Thiepval memorial, pier and face 7a 7b.

Frederick was one of the 10 children of Albert and Catherine Pugh. The family originated in Kemerton a small village in Gloucestershire , the 1891 Census shows the family as Albert 36, Catherine 27 and the children, Frederick C. 8, Ada E 6, Catherine H. 5, Gertrude 3 and Hilda D. 1.

By 1901 the family had moved to Orrell and his father, Albert, was employed as a ‘railway plate layer in a colliery’ and Frederick as a ‘drawer’ also in a colliery. The family had grown considerably from the 5 children named above and now also included the twin boys Austin & Bernard 6, Percy 5, Victoria D 1 and Harriet M age 6 months.

The 1911 census shows us that Frederick had married Margaret (Green) and now had 4 children of his own, Hilda 7, Henry 5, Frank 2 and George 10 months.

Frederick is one of the few who have a full Service Record ^(xiii) as the majority (70%) were lost during enemy bombings in WW2. Frederick’s record tells us that he signed up on the 4th September 1914 that he was 5foot 6¾ inches, weighed 148 pounds, had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. It is noted that he was a Roman Catholic , had scars on his back and even comments on the condition of his teeth! The army record also shows he had further children Ellen, born November 1911 and Margaret, December 1914. The record also shows that married Margaret Green on 1st January 1904 and even names officiating priest and the 2 witnesses.

In 1921 his family was notified that he had been buried at “ Lonsdale Cemetery No. 1, Authuille Wood, 2¾ miles N.N.E. of Albert”. However, checking the casualty records at the cemetery, although there is a Pugh named, it is not Frederick as the service number is different.

An obituary with photograph was published in the Wigan Observer, see next page. Also see page 14 for details of his brother Bernard, killed in action in 1917.

Collier Leaves Widow and Large Family.

FOUR BROTHERS ON ACTIVE SERVICE



PRIVATE F.C. PUGH

Pte. Fred C. Pugh, 12573, South Lancashire Regiment, has been killed in action. Thirty three years of age, he leaves a wife and six children at his home 15 Earl Street, Wigan. He was a collier at Pearson and Knowles' pits. His family have well played their part in the war. Three other brothers are on active service, two in Egypt and one in France. Mrs Pugh has received a message from a Second – Lieutenant who says the men were out in the open charging. The deceased was calling “come on, boys!” when a piece of shrapnel hit him and he died almost instantly. He passed away without any suffering. All the officers were killed or wounded.

◆ George Jackson ◆

Born: 11 December 1893⁽²⁾ **Baptised:** St James, Orrell, 28th January 1894⁽¹⁾
Address: 21 Alma Hill, Upholland, Wigan⁽²⁾ **Attended St James School** ¹⁹ see Appendix 4
Pre-war Occupation: Collier, dataller at Leyland Green Colliery⁽²⁾.
Died 05 August 1916, The Somme, France **Age: 22**

Rank: Private. **Service Number** 18364⁽³⁾
Regiment: 7th Battalion Border Regiment
Remembered: Thiepval Memorial

In the 1901 census George is shown as the 7 year old son of Thomas age 42, and Margaret age 40, Jackson (nee Swift⁽¹⁾). It was a large family and baptismal records exist for his siblings Mary 1882, Elizabeth 1884, John 1889, Joseph 1891, Rose 1895, Joseph Harold 1897 and Alice 1901. The 1911 census shows that his mother had died and that she had had a total of 12 children 2 of whom had also died. Her death is recorded in parish records as 24 June 1906⁽¹¹⁾.

George has a partial service record⁽¹³⁾ which gives us the following details. He joined the Border Regiment on the 7th December 1914 and is recorded as being 5 foot 5¼ inches, weight 134 pounds, with 4 vaccination marks on his left arm.

The Battalion⁽¹²⁾ was raised in Carlisle on the 7th September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Second New Army but George joined in Wigan. They trained at Andover and moved to Bovington in January 1915 and then to Winchester in June 1915. They landed in France on the 15th of July 1915, at Boulogne. The Division concentrated near St Omer and underwent trench familiarisation then took over a section of front line in the Southern part of the Ypres Salient. In the Spring of 1916 they were in action near the Bluff on the Commines Canal, south east of Ypres. They then moved to the Somme and saw action in the Battle of Albert, where the Division captured Fricourt, and the Battle of Deville Wood.

His obituary in the Wigan Observer records that he died as a result of 'shrapnel wounds to the head'⁽⁹⁾



◆ Fred Latham M.M (Military Medal) ◆

Born: about 1888 ⁽²⁾ in Roby Mill, Upholland, Lancashire

Address: 26 Roby Mill, Appley Bridge, Nr. Wigan ⁽²⁾

Pre-war Occupation: Coal Hearer .

Died 07 JUNE 1917, The Somme, France Age: 28

Rank: Lance Corporal **Service Number** 15952⁽³⁾

Regiment: 11th Battalion Manchester Regiment

Remembered: Irish House Cemetery, Belgium, Row 'A', grave 19

Fred Latham was born about 1888 in Upholland. His parents were Hugh Latham, a Licensed Victualler & Provision Dealer and his wife Jane, nee Molyneux. On the 1901 Census, Jane (51) is recorded as widowed and recorded as a Publican/Grocer living at the Fox Inn, Roby Mill. There are nine children also living there and Frederick, aged 14, is employed as an Errand Boy. By the 1911 Census, Fred is living at 26, Roby Mill, and is employed as a Coal Hearer, his older brother Hugh (31) is recorded as the head of the household, and there are details of three other brothers, Thomas (25), Bert (16) and Ellis (14), together with a nephew Harold (11), a niece(?) Sydney (2), and his sister Mabel, aged 35, a single woman.

Fred's army career has been documented by the Western Front Association. He joined up in November 1914, arrived in Gallipoli, Sulva Bay, in September 1915 and saw action from October through to January 1916 when the battalion was evacuated to Alexandria. They left Egypt on the 2nd July 1916 going via Malta to Marseilles where they arrived on the 8th July. By the 20th July they had arrived in the Arras Sector and took part in various actions during August and September 1916. The actions of 26th to 30th September cost the battalion 309 casualties and during this period Fred won his M. M. for bravery in the field.

The battalion moved from the Arras sector over the next few months and by June 1917 had reached Messine. Here 19 mines were exploded under the German Trenches, it is estimated that over 10,000 German soldiers were killed outright or buried alive, over 7,000 were taken prisoner. During action on 7th June Fred was killed together with 5 of his companions, and a further 11 wounded. The 6 killed were buried together at the Irish House Cemetery where they remain to this day.

A Memorium entry in the Wigan Observer 18/06/1918 reads "IMO a dear brother L/Cpl Fred Latham, Manchester Regt. Killed in action 7th June 1917 after winning the M.M. (four brothers still serving). Sister and brother in law and family, John and Ester Foster 689 Ormskirk Road, Rose Hill, Pemberton."

A letter was received by his sister which said –

"Your brother was killed in action while doing work of the utmost importance, the result of which will probably mean the saving of many lives of his fellow men and comrades. I can assure you that he did not suffer any pain whatever. Death was instantaneous He was a splendid soldier and the officers and men of his company will miss him very much indeed. We buried him where he was killed and erected a wooden cross over his grave with his name and regiment on it."

U P.160

Upholland Lance-Corporal's Death

**KILLED AFTER WINNING THE
MILITARY MEDAL.**



LANCE-CORPORAL FRED LATHAM.

Miss Latham and family, of 28, Roby Mill, Upholland, have been notified that their brother, Lance-Corporal Fred Latham, of the Manchester Regiment, has been killed on active service. The deceased soldier was 28 years of age. Before the war he worked at the Pemberton Colliery. He enlisted in November, 1914, and having served some time in Egypt he was sent to France, where he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. He has three other brothers serving with the colours, two being now in France. In a letter his Commanding Officer says: "Dear Miss Latham, - I very much regret to have to write and tell you that your brother was killed in action while doing work of the utmost importance, the result of which will probably mean the saving of many lives of his fellow-men and comrades. I can assure you that he did not suffer any pain whatever. Death was instantaneous. I deeply sympathise with you in your great loss, as I know what a terrible blow it will be to you. The officers and men of his company will miss him very much indeed. He was a splendid soldier, and a splendid fellow. He set a fine example to the rest of the men in the company, and it is such men as your brother that we can ill afford to lose. He died a brave death fighting for his King and Country, and I trust that God will help you to bear the burden of this loss just as bravely as he did. We buried him where he was killed, and erected a wooden cross over his grave, with his name and regiment, and date on it."

◆ John McNamara ◆

Born: About 1895 ⁽²⁾

Address: 6 Princess Street, Wigan

Pre-war Occupation: maker up Eckersley's cotton spinning mill

Died 07 JUNE 1917, Belgium Age: 23

Rank: Private **Service Number** 29812 ⁽³⁾

Regiment: 9th The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

Remembered: St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Information about John like that for Albert Webster has been difficult to find. John is the only J McNamara listed on the CWGC web site with a connection to the Wigan area. There is confusing information about him, but the best "fit" is that he was the son of Michael McNamara.

Reference to the 1911 Census does not help.

No army service record was found.

Mill Worker Killed in Action.

A BROTHER WOUNDED THREE TIMES.



***PRIVATE J. McNAMARA:**

News has been received by the relatives of Pte. John McNamara, of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, that he has been killed in action. Pte. McNamara, who was 23 years old, and single, enlisted in February, 1916, and was formerly employed as a labourer at Eckersley's Mill, his home being at 6, Princess-street, Wigan. He has a brother who has been three times wounded, twice at the Dardanelles, and once in Mesopotamia, where he is now on duty.

◆ Bernard Pugh ◆

Born: 10th July 1894 ⁽¹⁾ **Baptised:** St James, Orrell, 22nd August 1894

Address: 1 Jackson's Road, Kitt Green ^(xiv) **Attended St James School** ¹⁹ see Appendix 4

Pre-war Occupation: Labourer in brick yard ⁽²⁾

Died 23 JUNE 1917, France Age: 22

Rank: Lance Sergeant **Service Number** 3476⁽³⁾

Regiment: 9th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers

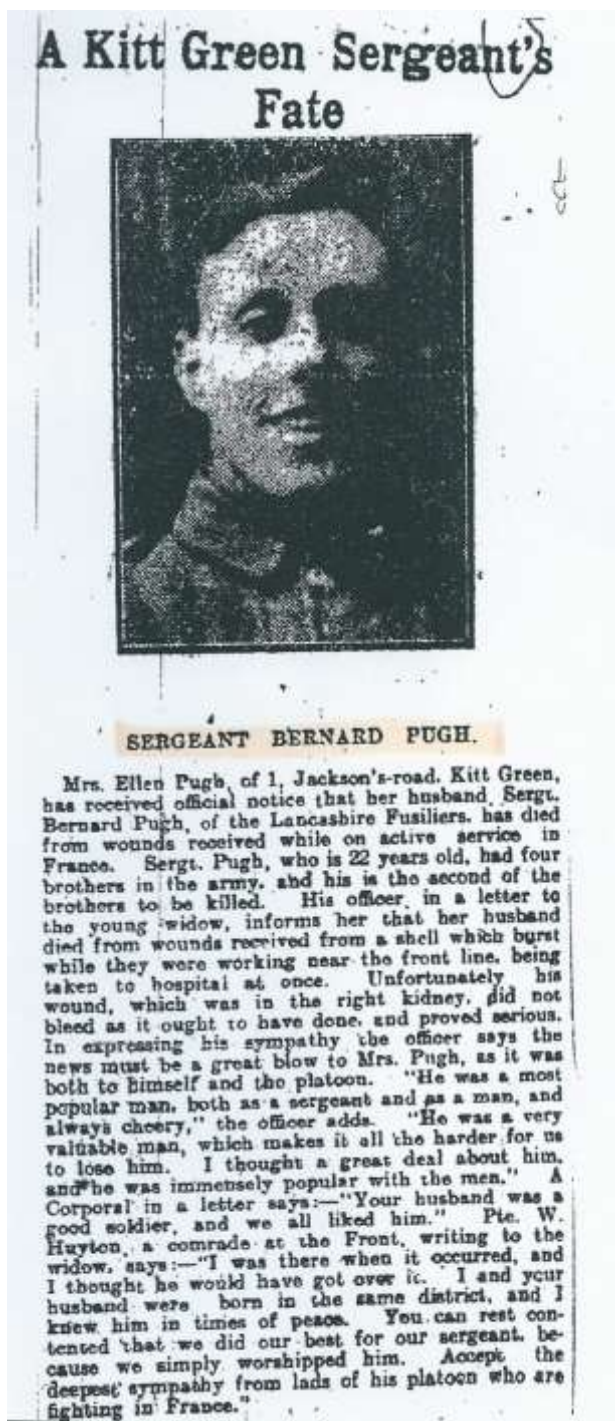
Remembered: Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, Plot 3, Row D, Grave 93

Bernard was another of the 10 children of Albert and Catherine Pugh (nee Perks⁽¹⁾). He had a twin brother Austin and was also the brother of Frederick C. Pugh who was killed in action in 1916 age 33, see page 8/9. Albert and Catherine had a very large family but by 1911 Albert had died and the family less Frederick, who had married, were living at 115 Orrell Road, Orrell Post.

The census recorders, seem to have had difficulty with the children's names on 2 successive census as Bernard is also recorded as Phillip B Pugh and his twin as Andrew A Pugh (there is also a Victoria⁽⁸⁾ and Victor⁽²⁾ recorded). See following page (15) for detailed family information.

⁽⁹⁾Bernard married Ellen Riley on the 29th January 1917, at Upholland Parish Church with one of the witnesses being his brother Victor Desmond Pugh. Unfortunately they had little time together as Ellen soon received written notice that Bernard had died from wounds. ⁽¹⁵⁾The letter from his friend Private W Highton ⁽⁹⁾ says a shell had burst near Bernard and he had been taken straight to hospital "unfortunately his wound, which was in the right kidney, did not bleed as it ought to have done and proved serious"

Ellen was widowed within 6 months of marriage and Catherine Pugh had lost another one of her sons and still had ^(xv) 3 sons Victor, Austin and Percy plus a son in law George Wilkinson serving in the His Majesty's Forces.



The Pugh Family

Parish Baptismal records⁽¹⁾ show that 7 of the Pugh family were baptised at St James.

	D.O.B	Baptised
Albert Thomas	16/12/1891	28/02/1892
The twins: Andrew Augustus and Philip Bernard	10/07/1894	22/08/1894
Henrietta	02/09/1900	22/09/1900
Margaret	?	11/04/1914
Percy George	27/11/1895	16/02/1896
Victor Desmond	06/06/1899	13/08/1899

However, the school admission records show that 11 children attended, Frederick C, Ada, Helen, Gertrude, Hilda Daisy, Andrew Austin, Philip Bernard, Percy George, Victor Desmond, Margaret and Harriet.



◆ Sidney H. Wright ◆

Born: About 1874 ^{xvi}

Address: his wife is recorded as living at Osborne House, Winstanley, Orrell ⁽³⁾

Pre-war Occupation: Sub Editor Hong Kong Telegraph

Died 10th February, France Age: 45

Rank: Captain **Service Number** 3476

Regiment: 114th Coy. Chinese Labour Corps

Remembered: Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, VII. C. 8.

There is not a great deal of information about Sidney what exists is mainly about his family in the period before 1901. He appears in the 1901 Census but then “disappears” until his death is recorded in 1919.

What we know is that he was the son of Frederick W. and Salina M. Wright and was born in Cambridgeshire about 1874 ⁽¹⁷⁾. He had an elder brother Tom a younger brother Leonard and a sister Ethel. The 1891 Census records him as living with his father in Peckham, London and he is employed as a Post Office Clerk. His mother is recorded in the same census as living in Cambridgeshire with daughter Ethel.

By 1901 Sidney has married Ellen Grace ?? and they have a 1 year old son Austin S. B. Wright, his occupation has changed – he is now recorded as Head of Grammar School in Cambridge.

In 1911 the most of the family reappear at Upholland Grammar School. Amongst the staff is Leonard Charles Wright, presumably Sydney’s brother, and Sydney’s sons Austin S.B. Wright age 11, and his brother Gerard Charles Wright age 7. Intriguingly Ellen Grace Wright, his wife, and Salina Maria Wright, his mother are also listed but as “visitors”. No home address is given but the CWGC gives it as Osborne House, Winstanley, Orrell.

Of Sidney there is no trace except the reference on the CWGC site to him as “late Sub Editor Hong Kong Telegraph”, this may explain his Army posting to the 114th Company Chinese Labour Corps.

How he died is unknown but he died after the war had ended and the Duisan Cemetery appears to have been used by various casualty-clearing stations in the area.



The final entry for Sidney is in the England and Wales Probate Calendar (1858-1966) where it is recorded that he left £115 17s. 9d to his widow Ellen Grace Wright.

-
- ⁱ Baptismal Register 1st March 1848 to 12th December 1935 - held at St James
- ⁱⁱ 1911 Census
- ⁱⁱⁱ Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)
- ^{iv} St James Monumental Inscriptions – held at St James’
- ^v Carol Littler
- ^{vi} Ancestry.co.uk Great Britain, Royal Naval Division Casualties of the Great War
- ^{vii} 1891 Census
- ^{viii} 1901 Census
- ^{ix} Upholland War Memorial records
- ^x Naval & Military Press – Soldiers who died in the great War
- ^{xi} St James Burial register, 3rd February 1856 – 19th December 2005. Held at St James’
- ^{xii} <http://www.1914-1918.net/border.htm>
- ^{xiii} Short Service Attestation – most records destroyed WW2 but some survive either in part or whole.
- ^{xiv} Wigan Observer Obituary
- ^{xv} Wigan Observer Article 14 August 1915
- ^{xvi} 1881 Census
- ^{xvii} England and Wales probate Calendar (1858 – 1966)
- ^{xviii} St James School Log Book Vol 2, covering February 1906 to March 1925
- ^{xix} St James School, Admission Register, Volume 1

Thanks to:

Carol Littler for initial information on our Parishioners who are named on the Upholland War Memorial, see uphollandwarmemorial.co.uk

Wigan Local Studies: Museum of Wigan Life, for access to copies of the Wigan Observer which provided unique photographs and information.

Headteacher of St James Catholic Primary School, Mr Gary Hayes, for access to old school records.

Tess Carroll for information and numerous old photographs which will be copied and form part of a Parish Archive.