



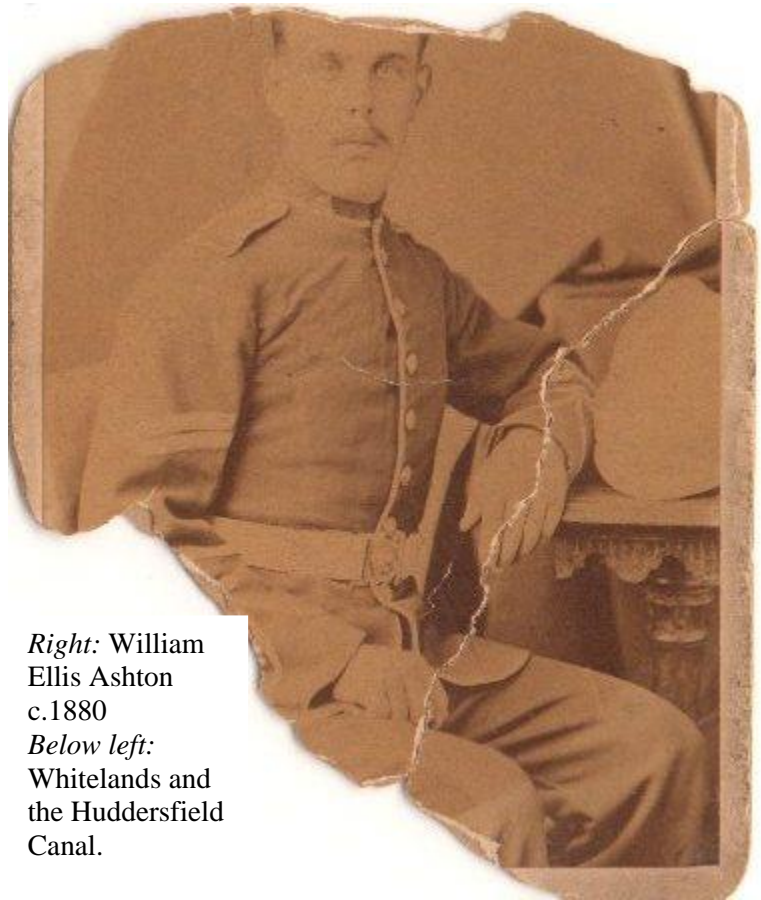
ELLESMERE PORT WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

18471 Private HENRY 'HARRY' ASHTON
7th Battalion Kings Shropshire Light Infantry
Died of Wounds 31st October 1916 Aged 33

12449/391095 Private JOHN 'JACK' ASHTON
8th / 9th / 3rd Battalions Cheshire Regiment / Labour Corps

William Ellis Ashton (the father of Henry and John Ashton) was born on 7 January 1858 in Ashton-under-Lyne in 1858, the son of Ellen and Henry Ashton, a Huddersfield Canal warehouse porterman from Derbyshire. In 1871 the family were living in Whitelands, a row of terrace cottages adjacent to the canal. Ten years later Henry and Ellen had moved a few hundred yards along the same road into 101 Crescent Road (coincidentally the name of the road in Ellesmere Port where William Ellis would later live his family). In 1876, William Ellis signed on for the army, serving a total of thirty years with the colours, including time in India and several years in Reserve. He was an excellent rifleman and was awarded a medal for 'best shot of the regiment' (still in family possession).

He was discharged in 1882 and came home, marrying Ann Emma Gleave, a dressmaker, on 14 June, while William began work as a leather currier at the local tannery. Henry Ashton was born on 30 March 1883, followed by George

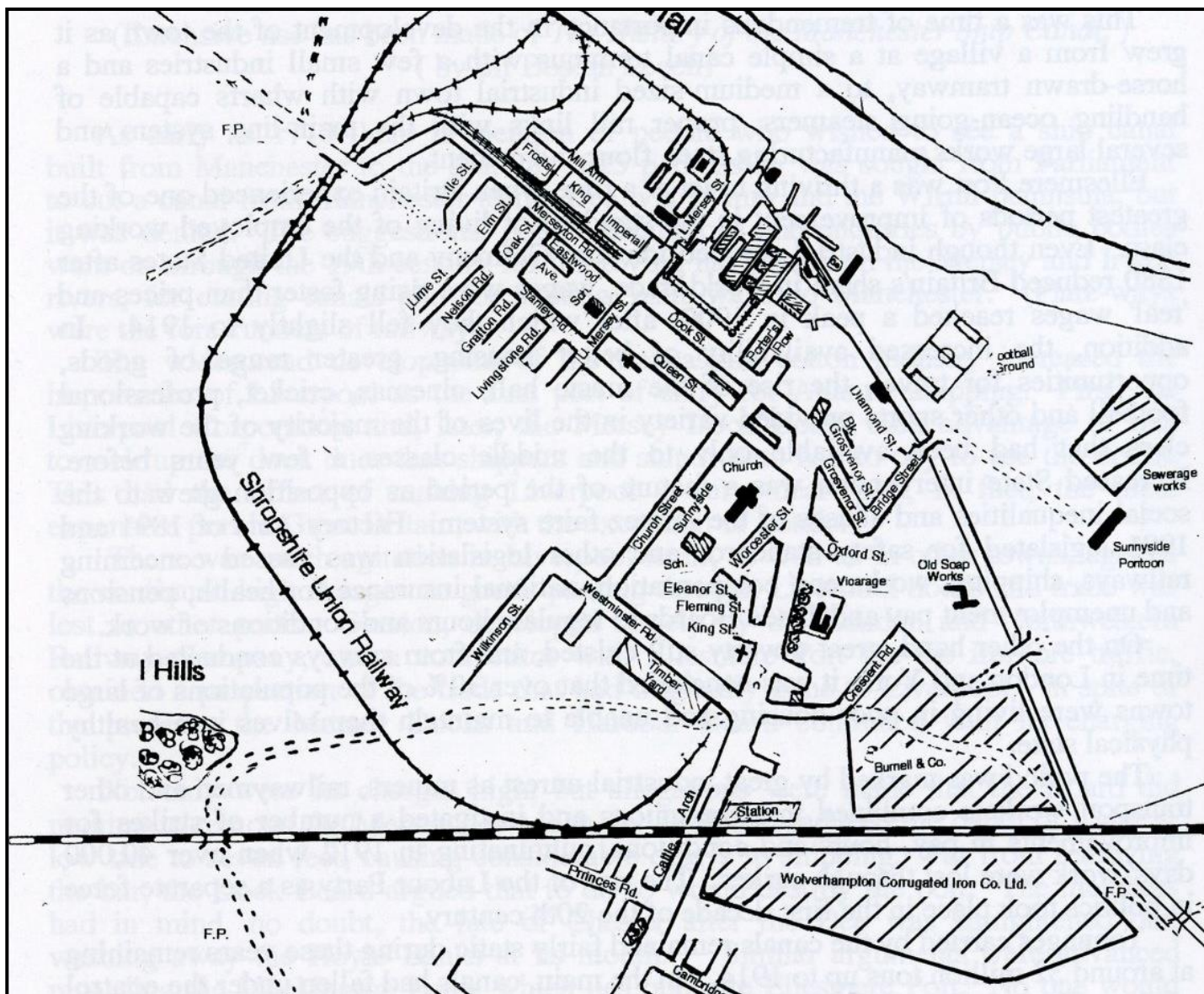


Right: William Ellis Ashton
c.1880
Below left:
Whitelands and the Huddersfield Canal.



Gleave (1886), Ellis (1888), Mary (1889) (both died in childhood aged 6 and 5), William Ellis (1898) and John (1890).

By 1891 they had moved into George Street on the opposite side of the canal, and before 1901, they had moved again, into 15 Hope Street in a row of terraces further out into the Hurst suburb of the expanding town of Ashton under Lyne. Henry was 18 by then and working as a cotton



Above: Ellesmere Port in 1910. Crescent Road can be seen skirting around Burnell's Iron Works (bottom right), and Bridge Street is located directly above Crescent Road.

Below: Wolverhampton Iron Works, with Burnell's to the extreme left.



piecer in a local mill, while 15 year old George was an apprentice Iron Moulder. About five years later, the family had moved to 79 Crescent Road in Ellesmere Port, now starting to expand following the opening of several factories, including the Wolverhampton Iron Works. William senior, plus sons Henry and John, were all working in the adjacent ironworks. They had also taken in two lodgers, also ironworkers, recently moved from West Bromwich, and a 'visitor', 26 year old Phoebe Davies from Dudley. William and Ann had had six children in all, but three had died by 1911 – two in childhood and tragically, George was fatally injured in an accident at the Iron Works aged only twenty-one.



Crescent Road still exists today although both Burnell's, formerly on the left, and the Wolverhampton (Merseyside) Iron Works have long been demolished. Sometime between 1911 and 1914 William Ashton moved his family a few doors down into No.53





c.1906 George and William with their mother Ann Emma Ashton, shortly after they moved into Number 79 Crescent Road, Ellesmere Port (and a short time before George's death).

Ann Emma passed away in 1917 and her husband William Ellis Ashton three years later.

18471 Private HENRY 'HARRY' ASHTON

Only a matter of days after the 1911 census had recorded Phoebe as a visitor, she was married to Henry Ashton on 17 April in nearby Christchurch, the parish church of Ellesmere Port. They had three children – Mary (12 June 1912), Clara (8 April 1914) and William Ellis (19 April 1915 – tragically William was killed in a road accident while on his bicycle when he was 16 years old).

By the time William was born, the war was now 8 months old, and Henry volunteered for service and was posted to the 7th (Service) Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry. [The records are not clear on his army record and Henry may have enlisted for the army a few years earlier and served in India for 8 years and South Africa for two, before discharge into the Reserve]. The regiment had been raised at Shrewsbury in September 1914, part of Kitchener's First Army, and they were attached to 76th Brigade, 25th Division. They moved to Codford for training then to Bournemouth in May 1915, to Romsey in late May, then in June to Aldershot. They proceeded to France on the 28 September 1915, landing at Boulogne before being concentrated in the area of Nieppe. The 7th KSLI first saw action in the Ypres Salient in the winter of 1915-16, then on 15 October 1915, 76th Brigade were transferred to 3rd Division. Four days later, the 19th Battalion was moved to 8th Brigade, still with 3rd Division.

In July 1916, they moved to the Somme and took part in the Actions of the Bluff and St Eloi Craters, then south for the Battle of Albert, the Battle of Bazentin helping to capture Longueval, The Battle of Delville Wood, and then to Serre for the Battle of the Ancre later in the year. It is likely that Henry lost his life in this last action. He was buried nearby in Courcelles Communal Cemetery, south-west of Hebuterne, Row A, Grave 18. (NB. De Ruvignys Roll of Honour has Henry as 'killed in action on the Somme on 31 November 1916, whereas the CWGC record states 'Died of Wounds on 31st October 1916').



The King's Shropshire Light Infantry moving up to the line.

COURCELLES-AU-BOIS COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, France

Courcelles-au-Bois is a village approximately 13 kilometres north of Albert. The extension was opened in October 1916 and used by field ambulances and fighting units until March 1917, when the German Army withdrew from the Ancre. It was used again in April 1918 during the German attack on Amiens. The village was in German hands for some months, but was retaken in August 1918. There are now 115 First World War burials in the extension, including three brought in from the communal cemetery in 1934. The extension was designed by F Higginson.

In Memory of

Private

Henry Ashton

18471, 7th Bn., King's Shropshire Light Infantry who died on 31 October 1916 Age 33

Son of William Ellis and Ann Emma Ashton, of Ashton-under-Lyne; husband of Phoebe Ashton, of 53, Crescent Rd., Ellesmere Port, Birkenhead.

Remembered with Honour

Courcelles-Au-Bois Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Courcelles Communal Cemetery

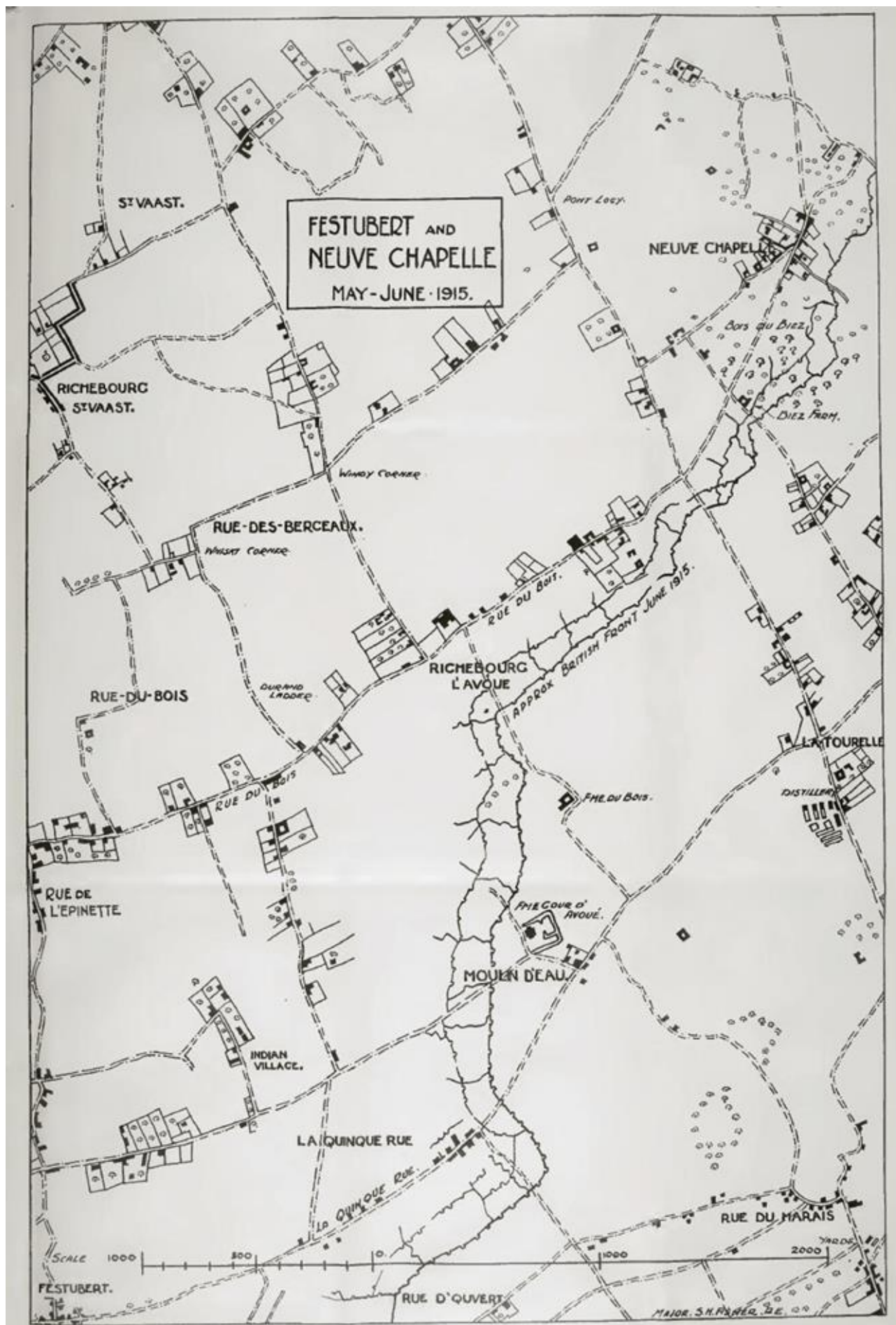


12449/391095 Private JOHN 'JACK' ASHTON

When war was declared, John Ashton, Henry's younger brother, now twenty four, was an early volunteer, probably part of the Glorious 514, the Ellesmere Port pals, signing for the 9th Cheshire Regiment on 1st September 1914. Patriotism and belief in the cause were certainly motivating factors for the rush to volunteer by the majority, but the war had also come at a time of acute economic hardship in these parts, mainly due to both iron works going on short time, followed by closure, as orders had completely dropped off due to the unsettled times. John may have been motivated by this too, plus the exciting opportunity to travel abroad and be involved in the action, following in his father's footsteps.

In researching his subsequent movements, significant administrative and clerical errors have clouded the precise detail of what happened to Jack over the next four years. On his war record, he was consistently confused with another John Ashton, from Willaston in South Wirral, a grocer's assistant. One can see his own exasperation coming through on the paperwork, when yet again the soldier clerk has written down 'occupation – grocer's assistant' – where written above is 'furnace man' his true occupation in the iron works, no doubt after Jack had protested about yet another error in his personal details. Even then, the clerk isn't convinced. He doesn't cross out Grocer, but merely adds 'own statement' after 'furnace man', as though he's covering himself in the likelihood of it all being a pack of lies. What is sure is that John Ashton of Willaston was discharged on October 1914 – like many other unhealthy and unfit men of his hard working generation – due to him 'not likely to become an efficient soldier'.





The British trenches June 1915 where Jack Ashton was positioned with the 9th Cheshires and where he suffered trench foot.



The Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley

Jack Ashton was not discharged however, at least not yet. There was a war to be fought and he wanted to be part of it. Although after the training period with his battalion, it would be 321 days before he would move abroad. During this time, he was in the 8th Battalion in the Cheshires, but after a transfer to the 9th he was in France by 19 June 1915, landing at Boulogne, the division concentrated near St Omer. Their first action was at Pietre, in a diversionary action supporting the Battle of Loos. For part of this time the 9th Cheshires were entrenched in Richeberg, just to the north of Festubert, (*see maps*) but Jack began to suffer badly with his feet due to the trench conditions and began to develop 'trench foot'. This was a wide expanse of level ground, and an area notorious for its high water table – many of the 'trenches' had to be built up with raised parapets well above ground level as even a shallow trench would soon be in water.

Finally, on 19 November he was despatched behind the lines for treatment at the Allied hospital in Rouen, where they quickly diagnosed frostbite and sent him home on 21 November 1915. He had



been in France for 125 days. Back in England he was sent north of the border to the Royal Alexandra Infirmary in Paisley where he stayed until 1 Feb 1916, by which time he had made a good recovery. He then began a period of convalescence spending 14 days at the V.A.D. Hospital Dumbarton then south for leave, during which time he got married on 23 April 1916. The newly-weds began married life at his wife's parents home in 7 Bridge Street, Ellesmere Port, close to the canal where it approaches the dock terminus. (*left*)

Jack was given a home posting to the 3rd Reserve Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, who were playing a role in Mersey

Defences, which led him being transferred to Kimmel Park West Camp on 20 August 1916, following a move into the 3rd Garrison (Home) Battalion on 7 September and being stationed in Liverpool on 29 September 1916.

At this time there was a growing need for organised infrastructure of labour support for the fighting units. Some infantry regiments formed labour companies and works battalions for work on the lines of communication and at home, but the organisation of manpower was haphazard until the formation of the Labour Corps. Formed in January 1917, the Corps grew to some 389,900 men (more than 10% of the total size of the Army) by the Armistice. Of this total, around 175,000 were working in the United Kingdom and the rest in the theatres of war. The Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service. Many were returned wounded. In April 1917, a number of infantry battalions were transferred to the Corps. The Labour Corps absorbed the 28 ASC Labour Companies between February and June 1917 and Labour Corps Area Employment Companies were formed in 1917 for salvage work, absorbing the Divisional Salvage Companies. The Corps always suffered from its treatment as something of a second class organisation: for example, the men who died are commemorated under their original regiment, with Labour Corps being secondary.

During this reorganisation Jack, who was clearly not fit enough to be returned to the Front, but could still play a useful role at home, was moved into the 3rd Reserve Garrison Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers on 3 August 1917, which was short lived, as he was then transferred into the one of the new Labour Corps organisations – the Western Command Labour Centre at Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, which became effective on Sep 29 1917.

Jack stayed here for several months, but by early 1918, he came before a medical board to assess his fitness and he was given a discharge on 26 March 1918 at Nottingham. He was rated at 'B3' and not eligible to transfer in to the Army Reserve. Jack had given everything he had and was honourably discharged. He was awarded a Silver War Badge, to be worn when in civvies to prevent unnecessary attention from those who would question why he wasn't in uniform. The final comment on his record was,

'Good, Honest and Sober. Disability caused by active service'

Jack Ashton returned home and to his job in the reopened iron works. He lived a long life and died in 1976 at the age of eighty-six.



Note.—The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Officer in medical charge of the case. In answering them he will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements and evidence recorded in his military and medical documents. He will also carefully distinguish cases entirely due to venereal disease.

- Richthof. France

The front bite occurred in the trencher at Richburg he was treated at Hospital in Rome on Nov 19. Left Rome Nov 21 transferred to Royal Aberdeen Infirmary Panley till 15th week Feb 1916. 14 days at V. H. S. Hospital, Scarborough, then to General Park Wood Common Syst. Then transferred to 3rd Cheshire then 3rd Gamma R. G. S. then to Oswestry on Sep 24 1917

- Attributable to service during
present war.

Transcription;

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form A-8 and other official documents.
Date	From whom received			
	S. Capt Chasley transferred to S. Res. Bn. Bn. R. W. Fusilier			
	Transferred to Labour Centre Canteen (C) 17/10/1917		3-8-17	W.C.L.C.
	Posted to Western Command Labourer		2-9-17	M. J. G. 2nd Lt.
	Posted to 530 th T.S. Coy			N. L. G. 2nd Lt.
	Forced W.C.L.C. 96		23/1/17	Whitby 2nd Lt.
	W.C.L.C. CHARGED NO LONGER		Pte 26-3-18.	Capt. Webb W.C.L.C. Club
	PHYSICALLY FIT		Disability: Fracture of both feet	
	Service towards engagement 3 yrs - 20 days		Due to A.S.	
	Address: 7 Bridge St, Ellesmere Port Cheshire			

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 12455 Name J. Ashton

Corps in which served	Regt. or Depôt	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of Pension		Service in Reserve not allowed to reckon towards G. C. Pay		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	years	days	
Service towards limited engagement reckons from <u>1-9-14</u>									<u>Ashton</u> Capt. <u>Ashton</u> Capt.
Joined at <u>13 head</u> on <u>1-9-14</u>									
<u>Ches Regt.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>Attested</u>	<u>Pte</u>	<u>1-9-14</u>					
		<u>Discharged absolutely unfit</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>12-10-14</u>					

Above: Extract from the Soldier's War Record of John Ashton, Grocer's Assistant of Willaston, showing his discharge on 12 October 1914.

Below: Extract from the Soldier's War Record of John 'Jack' Ashton (our man). Note the amendment above Grocer's Assistant (centre left) – 'furnace man (own statement)'. Both documents, and similar mixed forms, are contained in the same record.

A.S. 111
Army Form B. 103.

Regimental Number 391095

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 3rd Garrison Bn. The Cheshire Regt.

Rank Pte Surname Ashton Christian Name John

Religion C of E Age on Enlistment 19 years 18 days months

Enlisted (a) 1-9-14 Terms of Service (a) 3 yrs Service reckons from (a) 1-9-14

Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____

Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) MEDAL

Occupation Grocer's Assistant or Corps Trade and Rate _____ Signature of Officer _____

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received			
		Embarked ...		
		Disembarked...		
	<u>D. Cheshire</u>	<u>Attested.</u>	<u>1-9-14</u>	
	<u>8th "</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>2-9-14</u>	
	<u>9th "</u>	<u>Expeditionary Force France</u>	<u>19-7-15</u>	
	<u>D. "</u>	<u>Returned from Exp. Force</u>	<u>21-11-15</u>	
	<u>3rd "</u>	<u>Tested</u>	<u>7-9-16</u>	
	<u>3rd Gun. Bn.</u>	<u>Transferred to 3rd Gun. Bn.</u>	<u>29-9-16</u>	
		<u>Tested</u>	<u>30-9-16</u>	
		<u>Granted Transport Class II at 3/- per day</u>		
		<u>R/W 1073 to 1077. Authy Regt</u>		
		<u>Payed 4/- 17</u>	<u>1-9-16</u>	

S.N.S.T. 18413

In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(c) Signaller, Shoeing-Smith, &c.

W. 11514—M1155 10000 1/17 (2727) S.P. & Co. Ltd. Forms B. 103/4 B. 154. [P.T.O.]

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
ASHTON	KSLI	Pte	18471
Henry.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	5/1/102 ^g	1849	
BRITISH	- do -	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1389

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
ASHTON	*Ches. R. Lab Corps	Pte Pte	12449 391095
John.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	*LC/101 ^B	14050	Disic 26.3.18.
BRITISH	- do -		
15 STAR	LC/22 ^c	25/1	
S.W.B. List	LC/1330.		
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France		
Date of entry therein	19.7.15.		

K. 1389.

Medal Cards

Census Records

Page 10]		The undermentioned Houses are situated within the Boundaries of the						Ecclesiastical District of	
Civil Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c. of	Elect. Ward or Improvement Commissioners' District of	Ecclesiastical District of	
St. Michael		Athlone	St. Michael	Athlone	Athlone			St. Michael	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSE No. habitable (a, b, or c)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of Males (Female)	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
	Whitelands		John Moore	Father in law	Head	58	Tanner	Lancashire Bolton	
			Ann Jones	Daughter	Wife	30	Wife in Cotton Field	Wales Mold	
48	do (Part of House)	1	Henry Ashton	Head	Man	40	Wife at Middleton's Canal Warehouse	Lancashire Hope	
			Ellen do	Wife	do	39	do	Lancashire Hope	
			Henry do	Son	Wife	15	Mechanic	Lancashire Ashton & Athlone	
			William & do	do	do	63	do	do do	
			Maude Anne do	Daughter	do	5	do	do do	
			Charles Butterworth	Daughter	Wife	21	Tanner	Lancashire Chapel-en-le-Dale	
49	do (Part of House)	1	Charles Dickinson	Head	Man	45	Tanner	Yorkshire Hull	
			Margaret do	Wife	do	33	do	Wales Galway Town	
			Mary do	Daughter	do	6	do	Lancashire Hull	
			Ann do	do	do	4	do	Lancashire Lincoln	
			Bessy do	do	do	3	do	Lancashire Chesterfield	
			Charles do	Son	do	10	do	Lancashire Leeds	
50	do (part of House)	1	Martha Madgwick	Head	Wife	45	Cotton Weaver	Lancashire Athlone	
			Sarah A do	Daughter	Wife	16	do do	do do	
			Emma do	do	do	11	Scholar	do do	
			Thomas Wood	Head	Man	42	Wine & Woollen Dyer	do Manchester	
			Ann do	Wife	do	37	do	do Biddish	
			Thomas do	Son	do	9	Scholar	do Ashton & Athlone	
			Elizabeth A do	Daughter	do	5	do	do do	
			Henry do	Son	Wife	10	do	do do	
			Mary H. Pitt & Co.	Wife in law	Wife	40	Landlady	do Blackley	
			Elizabeth do	Sister in law	Wife	39	Domestic Servant	do Ragsford	
52	do	1	John Holland	Head	Man	40	Master Tanner employing 13 & 2 Boys	Lancashire Burnley	
Total of Houses..		5	Total of Males and Females..			11	74		

Census 1871 – William Ellis Ashton aged 13 (father of Henry)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 43]

Elect. District (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Electoral Division or District of	II	
Dukinfield			Stalybridge	Dukinfield	Dukinfield		St. Mark's		
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSE No. in Street or Locality (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lame
20	101 Crescent Rd.	1	Henry Ashton	Head	Mar	71	Porter	Hopk. Derby	
			Ellen do	Wife	do	57	Dressmaker	Lidgate do	
			John Aspinwall	Son	do	24	Cotton Weaver	Ashton-Lane Lanc	
			Ellen do	Daughter	do	16		do	
			Henry Ashton	Boarder	Unm	28	Iron Driller	do	
			Blanca Haldth	Orphan	do	9	Scholar	do	
21	105 do	1	George Ashton	Head	Mar	30	Drapery	do	
			Emma do	Wife	do	30		Lidgate Derby	
			Agatha do	Son	do	9	Scholar	United States America	
			Thomas do	Son	do	4		Stalybridge Lanc	
			Ernest do	do	do	1		do (Chas)	
			Alma do	Son	do	6	Scholar	United States	
22	113 do	1	Joseph Lee	Head	Mar	25	Printing Press Steward	Woodhouse Lanc	
			Mary do	Wife	do	24	Greenhouse	Ashton-Lane Lanc	
23	117 do	1	John Wood	Head	do	41	Clayton	do	
			Sarah do	Wife	do	41	Cotton Weaver	do	
			Harry do	Son	do	12	Scholar	Dukinfield Chesh	
			William do	do	do	7	do	do	
			Mary Ann do	Son	do	4		do	
			Ernest do	Son	do	2		do	
24	119 do	1	Samuel Whitaker Farm	Head	Mar	26	Master Blacksmith Employing 7	Ashton-Lane Lanc	
			Sarah do	Wife	do	26	Cotton Weaver	do	
			John Farver	Son	do	14		Dukinfield Chesh	
25	111 do	1	Elizabeth Charlesworth	Mother	Widow	35	Supplies	Derby Lanc	
			Walter do	Son	do	7	Scholar	Dukinfield Chesh	
Total of Houses...		6	Total of Males and Females...			13	12		

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng- Sheet K

**Census 1881 – William Ellis Ashton no longer in the family home
(top line is Henry's grandfather)**

Administrative County of <u>Cheshire</u>			The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 14		
Civil Parish	Municipal Borough	Municipal Ward	Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District				
of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>	of <u>Widnes (part)</u>			
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Number of Houses in the Parish	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males Females	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Where BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or idiot				
47	George St.		Robert Lee	Hodger		X				Cheshire Widnes					
			Kellie do	do		0 1/2				do do					
48	54 43 do	37	Henry Barber	Head	do	40	Blacksmiths Striker	X		Cheshire Widnes					
			Sarah do	Wife	do	38	Cotton Frame Sutor	X		Launceston Devon					
			Henry Ann Knott	Wife	do	38	do	X		do do					
49	29 do	1	Kay Ratchiffe	Head	do	39	do Spinner	X		Cheshire Widnes					
			Mary do	Wife	do	38				do do					
			George do	Son	do	20	Cotton Piece	X		do do					
			Joseph do	do	do	10	Scholar			do do					
			Elizabeth do	Daughter	do	10				do do					
50	37 do	1	William E. Helton	Head	do	53	Farmer	X		Launceston Devon					
			Ann E. do	Wife	do	40	Wine Merchant	X		do do					
			Henry do	Son	do	18	Scholar			Cheshire Widnes					
			George F. do	Son	do	15	do			Launceston Devon					
			Edith do	Son	do	13				do do					
			Mary do	Daughter	do	12				Cheshire Widnes					
			John do	Son	do	9 1/2				do do					
51	35 do	1	Robert Booth	Head	do	49	General Laborer	X		Derbyshire Stretton					
			Sarah Ann do	Wife	do	46	Blacksmith	X		do Stretton					
			Robert do	Son	do	29	Colliery Bandman Coal M.	X		do do					
			Carrie do	Daughter	do	20	Dom. Nurse Girl	X		do do					
			Edwin do	Son	do	15	Cotton Piece	X		Cheshire Widnes					
			Elizabeth do	Daughter	do	14	Scholar			do do					
			Ernest do	Son	do	8	do			do do					
			William do	Son	do	5	do			do do					
			Emily do	Daughter	do	0 1/2				do do					
			James E. Lam	Head	do	40	Barber	X		Launceston Devon					
52	33 do	1	Samuel Wapleffe	Head	do	25	Cotton Spinner	X		Cheshire Widnes					
			John do	Wife	do	22	do Weaver	X		Launceston Devon					
			Annie do	Daughter	do	10				do Heston					
Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...			Total of Males and Females... 17 13												

Census 1891 – Henry Ashton aged 8

Administrative County			Lancaster		The undermentioned Houses are situated within the boundaries of the																	Page 12	
Civil Parish			Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough Municipal Borough Urban District of				Ward of Municipal Borough				Rural District				Parliamentary Borough				Town or Village or Hamlet		
of HURST. (Part 1)			of HURST. (Part 1)		of HURST. (Part 1)				of HURST. (Part 1)				of HURST. (Part 1)				of HURST. (Part 1)				of HURST. (Part 1)		
Road, Street &c. and No. or Name of House			Houses		Name and Surname of each Person		RELATION to Head of Family		Age last Birthday at		PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION		Employer, Worker, or Own account		WHERE BORN		(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded						
No. of Houses			Uninhabited		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male						
73	148	Hope Street	1		4	Laurel Moss	Head	Male	64		Machine Fitter (Blacksmith)	Worker		Lancaster									
						Ella	Wife	Female	65					"									
						Henry	do	do	27	x	Cotton Weaver	Worker		"									
						Cartha	do	do	28		do	do		"									
						Agnes Hamb	Wife	Female	32		Hospital Nurse (Nurse)	do		"									
74	150	do	1		4	James Anderson	Head	Male	52		General Servant (Agriculture)	Worker		Lancaster									
						Joseph	do	Son	27		General Servant (Agriculture)	do		"									
						Harry A.	do	Son	30		Cotton Weaver (Agriculture)	do		"									
75	152	do	1		4	Thomas Pennington	Head	Male	38		do Spinner	do		"									
						Harry E.	do	Wife	36		do (Cotton)	do		"									
						Edmund	do	Son	12					"									
76	9	do	1		4	William H. Hughes	Head	Male	31		Cotton Weaver	Worker		"									
						Arthur H.	do	Wife	27					"									
						Sarah	do	Son	9	x				"									
						William A.	do	Son	1mo					"									
77	11	do	1		4	Elizabeth Roberts	Head	Female	38		Wash. & Gen. & Cloth. Sell	Worker		Lancaster									
						Elizabeth	do	Son	17		Wash. & Gen. & Cloth. Sell	do		"									
						William	do	Son	15		Wash. & Gen. & Cloth. Sell	do		"									
						Barrett	do	Son	11	x				"									
						Robert	do	Son	7					"									
13	do		1		4	William E. Bolton	Head	Male	43		Leather Currier	Worker		Lancaster									
						Ann E.	do	Wife	41					"									
						Henry	do	Son	18		Cotton Weaver	Worker		"									
						George G.	do	Son	15		Wash. & Gen. & Cloth. Sell	do		"									
						John	do	Son	10					"									
						William	do	Son	3					"									
Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than 10 persons			65	1	65	Total of Males and of Females...				13	13												

NOTE.—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

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.

Number of Schedule 98
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

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 previous Marriage (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 8)	Children born alive to previous Marriages (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 9)	Children born alive to previous Marriages (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 10)	Children born alive to previous Marriages (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 11)	Children born alive to previous Marriages (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 12)	Children born alive to previous Marriages (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 13)			
1. William Ellis Ashton	Head	50	Married	28	6	3	3	General labourer (at home)	Ironworks	Worker	Ashton, under Lyme, Lancashire	English	
2. Ann Emma Ashton	Wife	51		28	6	3	3	General labourer (at home)	Ironworks	Worker	Ashton, under Lyme, Lancashire	English	
3. Henry Ashton	son	28	Single					General labourer (at home)	Ironworks	Worker	Dunstable, Bedfordshire	English	
4. John Ashton	son	20						Ironworker (Turner)	Ironworks	Worker	Dunstable, Bedfordshire	English	
5. William Ellis Ashton	son	13						Schoolboy			Dunstable, Bedfordshire	English	
6. Phoebe Davies	Visitor	26	Single					Mothers help			Dunstable, Bedfordshire	English	
7. Joseph Jackson	Boarder	38						Ironworker (Breaker Down)	Ironworks	Worker	West Bromwich, Staffordshire	English	
8. George Stamford		35	Married	9	2	2	2	Ironworker (Breaker Down)	Ironworks	Worker	West Bromwich, Staffordshire	English	
9.													
10.													
11.													
12.													
13.													
14.													
15.													

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.
(2) I have 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 I have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: W.E.A.

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

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

Number of Rooms: Five

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

Signature: William E. Ashton
Postal Address: 79 Crescent Rd. E. Elmsmere Port Cheshire

Census 1911 – Henry Ashton aged 28, with future wife Phoebe Davies

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to **Alan Fry**, grandson of John Ashton, who provided a great deal of family information (plus oral history from his mother), and also supplied the photos of John Ashton and William Ellis Ashton, the family home in 1906, and John's medals. Between the three of us, Alan, his mother and myself, several hours work and numerous emails, the confused state of John Ashton's war record was resolved.

Thanks also to **Derek Ashton**, grandson of Henry Ashton, who also supplied much helpful family information. He was in possession of several of Henry's personal records; pre-war service, including "The Small Book", certificates of education, semaphore and telegraphy, discharge papers, notification of death, certificate of death, burial information and commemorative scrolls (including one issued by Ellesmere Port and Whitby UDC), covering dates from 1901-1917. There is also a photograph of him in Ellesmere Port Reserves. On the back of this photo there are instructions to produce a painting (still in Derek's possession) in delicate condition on paper, the backing is a woven fabric. Derek and his wife travelled to Ellesmere Port in summer 2014 to show the documents to family members, before donating all to Cheshire Record Office in Chester, who intend to preserve them, and put them on their website to be available for all to share.

On a further family note, Henry's wife Phoebe had a sister Ada who was married to Arthur Pratt, who is also recorded on the Ellesmere Port War Memorial.

Researched and written

by

Mike Royden

www.roydenhistory.co.uk