FARNDON DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Remembering the Men of Farndon

Private 43542 SAMUEL PUGH

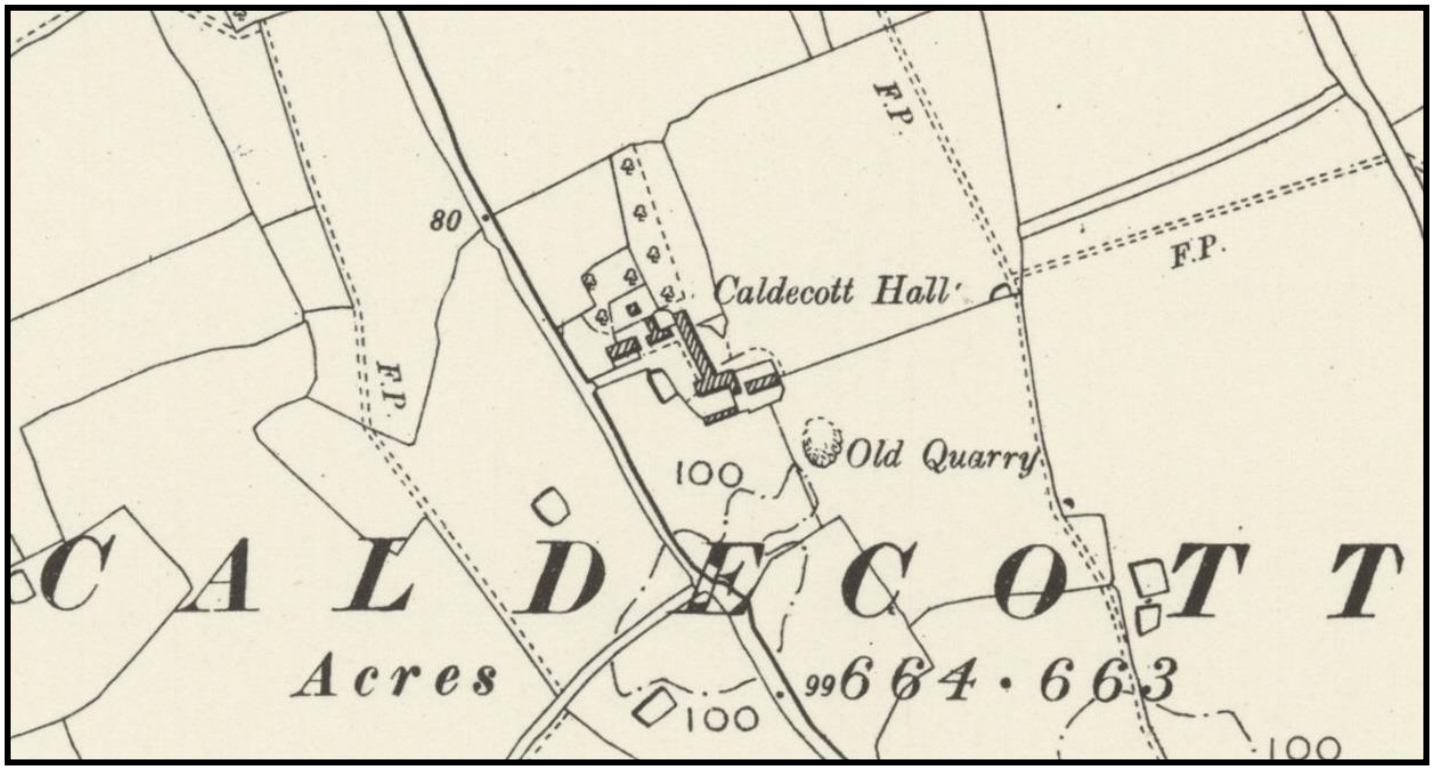
73rd Company, Labour Corps
Formerly 66517 8th Labour Company, King's Liverpool Regiment
(1239 2nd Cheshire Yeomanry ?)

Died of Wounds 25 July 1917

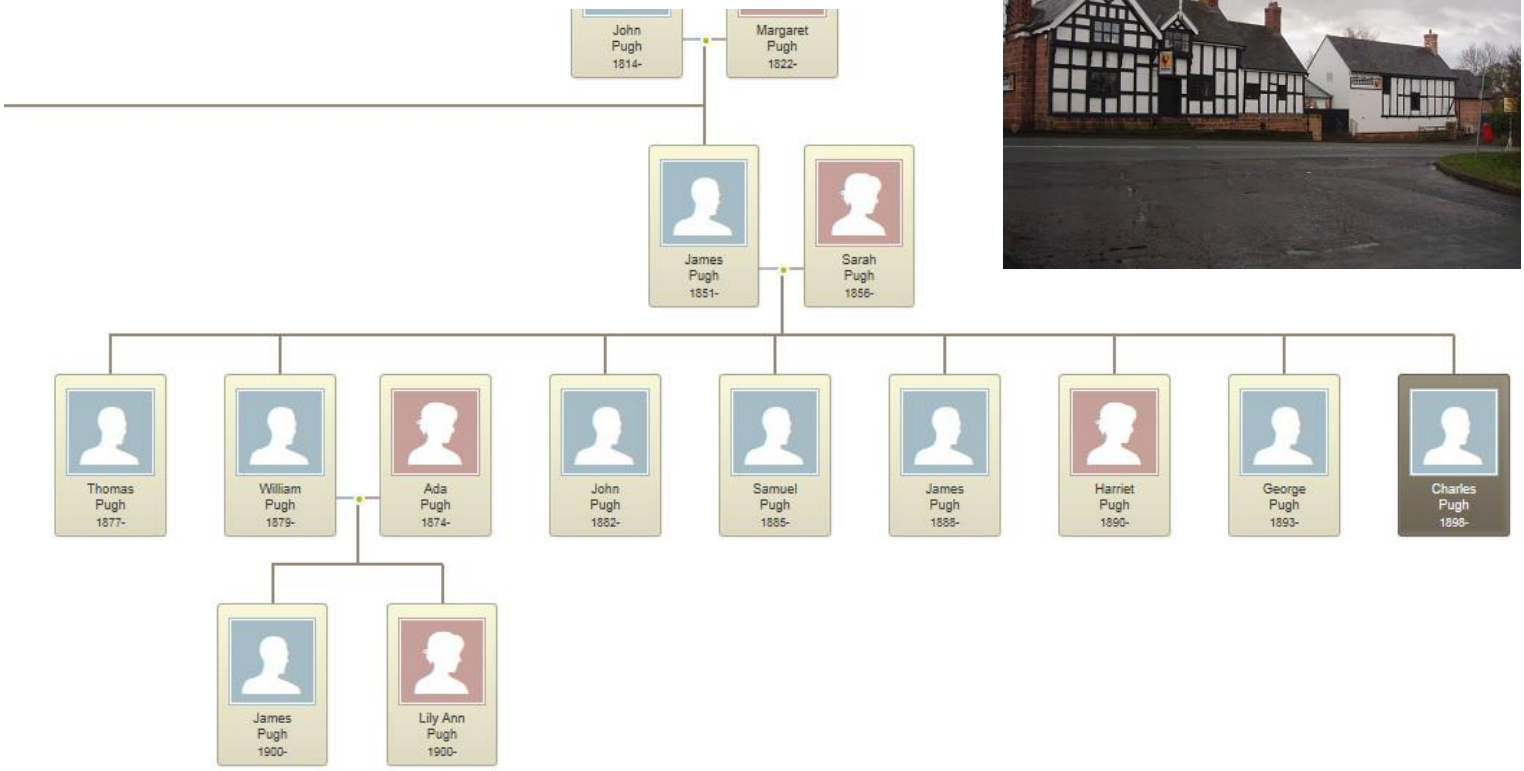
Samuel Pugh was the son of James and Sarah Pugh of the hamlet of Barton, near Farndon. Born in 1885, Samuel was baptised later that year on 4 October 1885 in St. Mary's Coddington. His father was an agricultural labourer on a nearby farm, and when Samuel was old enough he moved out of his parent's house and into the Barton Road farm of neighbour Charles Fatherson, to work as a waggoner, where his older brother Thomas, aged twenty-three, was already working as a cowman.

By 1911 he was employed as the teamsman on Thomas Darlington's Caldecott Hall farm, about 2 miles south east of Farndon. The two cowmen working with Samuel on the farm were the Finneran brothers, Thomas (24) and Charles (18) from the neighbouring farm of Wetreins, in Stretton. They, and a third brother, James, also enlisted during the war. Charles did not return, killed in action on 22 August 1918 in France (his name is recorded on the Tilston Memorial).

Samuel's brother Tom in the meantime, had married and moved across the Dee to the 'Bungalow' in Eccleston village, where he was working as a cowman on one of the Duke of Westminster's local farms. In 1914 when war began, he was thirty-seven, and now with a three year old daughter, his services were to be at home for the duration of the war. His younger brothers, George and Charles Pugh, served in the Training Reserve and the King's Shropshire Light Infantry respectively, and survived the war.

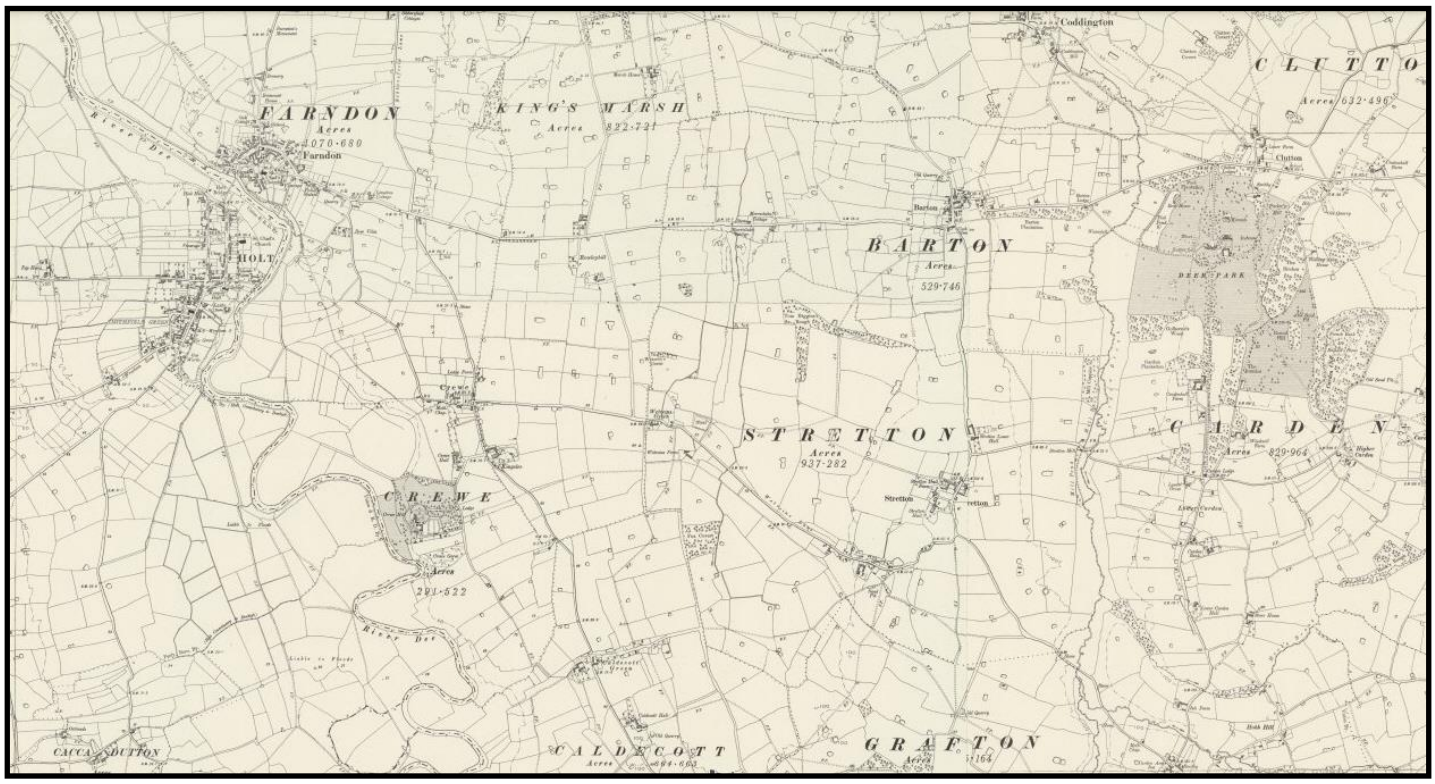


Caldecott Hall Farm, south east of Farndon



Above: **Ancestry of Samuel Pugh of Barton near Farndon, Cheshire**
Above right: **Cock o' Barton**

Below: **The hamlets and farms to the east of Farndon in 1895, showing most of the areas featured in the text**



Above: **Cheshire teamsman at work**

Below: Conditions on the Salient

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule 2
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, 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 morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family. State whether "Head," or "Wife," or "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, or "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX. For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc. Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE. Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of:— Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards. Personal Occupation. The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c. If engaged in any Trade or Manufacture, the particular kind of work done, and the Article made or Material worked or dealt in should be clearly indicated. (See Instructions 1 to 8 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Industry or Service with which worker is connected. This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here. No entry needed for Domestic Servants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Examples on back of Schedule.)	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account. Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Whether Working at Home. Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	BIRTHPLACE of every person. (1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor" in this Country.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country. State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage," (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	INFIRMITY. If any person included in this Schedule is:— (1) "Totally Deaf," or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
1	Thomas Darlington	Head	34		Single					Farmer	Agriculture	Employer	At Home	Caldecott Berkshire	British	
2	Charlotte Darlington	Sister		30	Single					Farmers Daughter				Caldecott Berkshire	British	
3	Jessie Darlington	Sister		26	Single					Farmers Daughter				Caldecott Berkshire	British	
4	Nellie Jones	Servant		25	Single					General Servant Domestic		Worker		Sherlock Berkshire	British	
5	Samuel Pugh	Servant	30		Single					Yeoman on Farm		do		Barton Berkshire	British	
6	Thomas Fuimeran	Servant	24		Single					Yeoman on Farm		do		Wickens Berkshire	British	
7	Charles Fuimeran	Servant	18		Single					Yeoman on Farm		do		Wickens Berkshire	British	
8	Mason Beasley	Visitor	39		Single					Poste Restante	Retired	Retired		Stratford Lancashire	British	
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 columns.
(2.) I have counted the males and females in Columns 3 and 4 separately, and have compared their sum with the total number of persons.
(3.) After making the necessary enquiries I have completed all entries on the Schedule which appeared to be defective, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator [redacted]

Total.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
	5	3	8

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

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

Ten

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

Signature Thomas Darlington

Postal Address Caldecott Hall, Farndon, Chester.

Above: **1911 Census, Samuel Pugh at Caldecott Hall Farm**

Below: **Modern map of the Farndon-Barton area**

(8 52 54) W 1477—2339 15,000 7/14 H W V Forms D. 400 38

Army Form D. 400.

Descriptive Return of Soldier on Discharge.

INSTRUCTIONS.—This form is to be completed in the case of every discharged soldier whose claim to pension, on account either of service or of disability, is to be submitted for the consideration of the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital, and should be forwarded with Army Form B. 268 (Proceedings on Discharge) to the Secretary, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London, S.W.

Statement B need not be filled in by the soldier himself, but he must be given a full opportunity of examining it, as, if awarded a pension, his subsequent identification depends on his confirming this declaration. The "Rank," "Station" and "Date" in his certificate should be in his own handwriting.

Changes occurring in the description subsequent to the date of admission to pension should be noted in red ink.

Name in full Samuel Pugh — Rank on discharge Pte.

Regiment from which discharged 2/ CHESHIRE YEOMANRY — Regimental Number 1239

Intended address Barton. Nr. Malpas Cheshire

		Regiment	Years	Days	All Service Abroad with Stations	Years	Days
A	Period of Service and in what Corps ...	2/Cheshire Yeomanry	—	131	India S. Africa		
	Disallowed	... ...		—			
	Service towards Pension	... ...		131			

Date inclusive to which pay has been issued 19th February, 1915. Sum due on account of advance of Pension

Sums due on account of public debts ...

Character (as on Certificate of Discharge) Very good

B	Where born and on what date ...	Farndon. 8th Apl. 1888.
	Date and Place of first enlistment	12th October, 1915. Chester.
	Trade on Enlistment ...	Waggoner
	Cause of Discharge ...	Being no longer physically fit for further war service.
	Number of Good Conduct Badges	—
	Medals	—
	Height on discharge ...	5 Feet 6½ Inches
	Colour of Hair on discharge ...	dark brown Colour of Eyes Brown.
	Figure on discharge ...	Medium
	Wounds and Actions in which received	
	Other Distinguishing marks ...	
	Christian Name of Father ...	James.
	Christian Name of Mother ...	Sarah.
	Wife's Maiden Name in full ...	—
	Date and Place of Marriage ...	—
	Christian Names of Children ...	—

I declare that I am the soldier referred to above, and that all the particulars contained in the Statement B are, to the best of my knowledge, correct.

(*Signature in full*) S Pugh (*Rank*) Pte.

Station Chester *Date* 19th February, 1915.

I certify that the above-named soldier signed the foregoing declaration in my presence, and that the above description and details of service are, to the best of my knowledge, correct.

D N Kerdiston Lt Col *Commanding* 2/ CHESHIRE YEOMANRY

Station Chester. *Date* 19th February, 1915.

[OVER.

Above: **One of the pages from 'Samuel Pugh's' war record 1915, showing birth details of James Pugh**

43542

Subject:- Personal Effects.

From:- Labour Corps Record Office,
32, Carrington Street.

To:- Mr. J. Pugh
Barton
Walkeringham.

Chris.

I have to-day forwarded to you, per Registered Post, upon instructions received from the War Office, the undermentioned Personal Effects of the late No. 43542 Pte S. Pugh, 13 Lab. Bn.

Pipe
Regist card
Tobacco Box + Pouch
2 metal Rings
5 Coins
Bunch of Keys
medallion.
Purse
Exemption Certificate
AFE 511
AFB 2067
Letters Photos + Wallet

Please date and sign the receipt at the foot of this letter and return it to this Office.

Yours faithfully,

for Colonel i/c Labour Corps Records.

Nottingham.

RECEIVED from the Colonel in Charge Labour Corps Records NOTTINGHAM, the Personal Effects of the late No. detailed above.

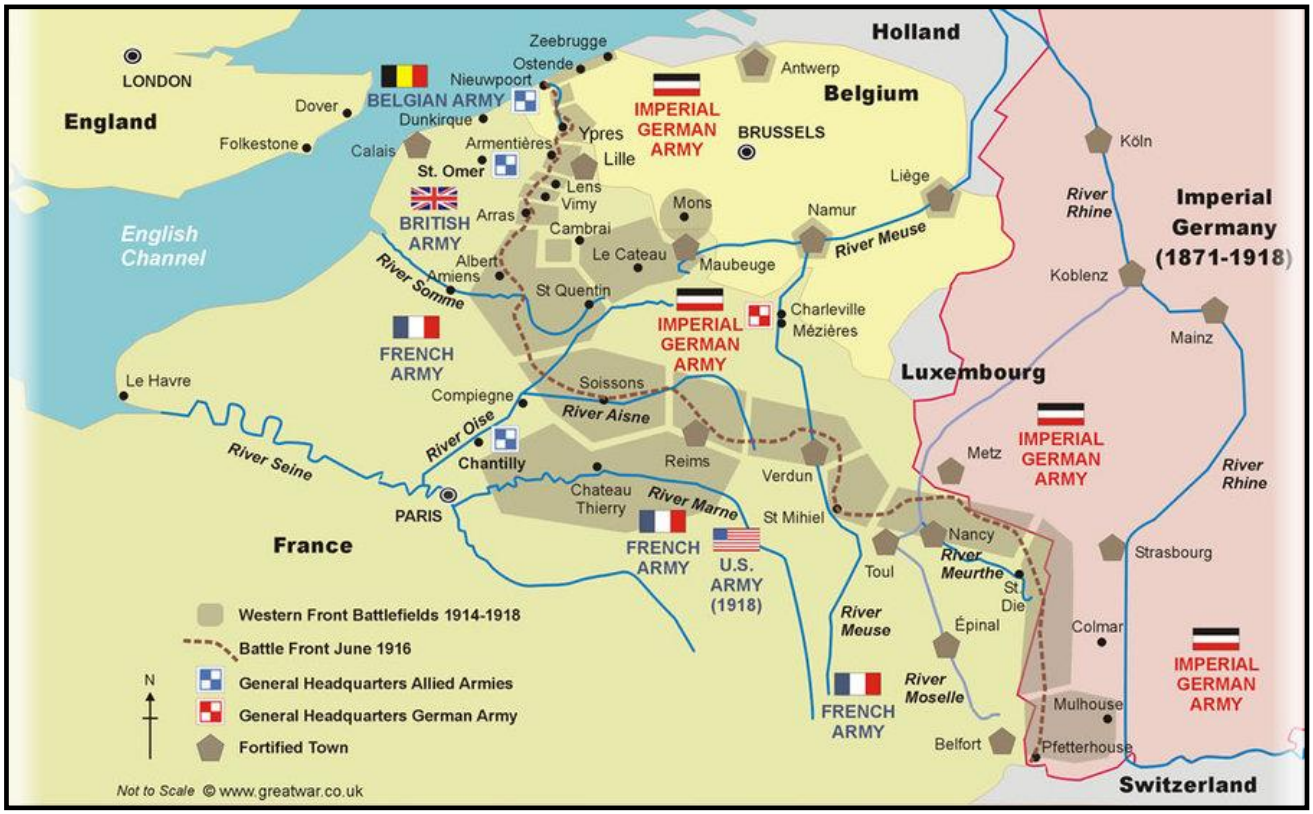
8th May 1918 SIGNATURE James Pugh

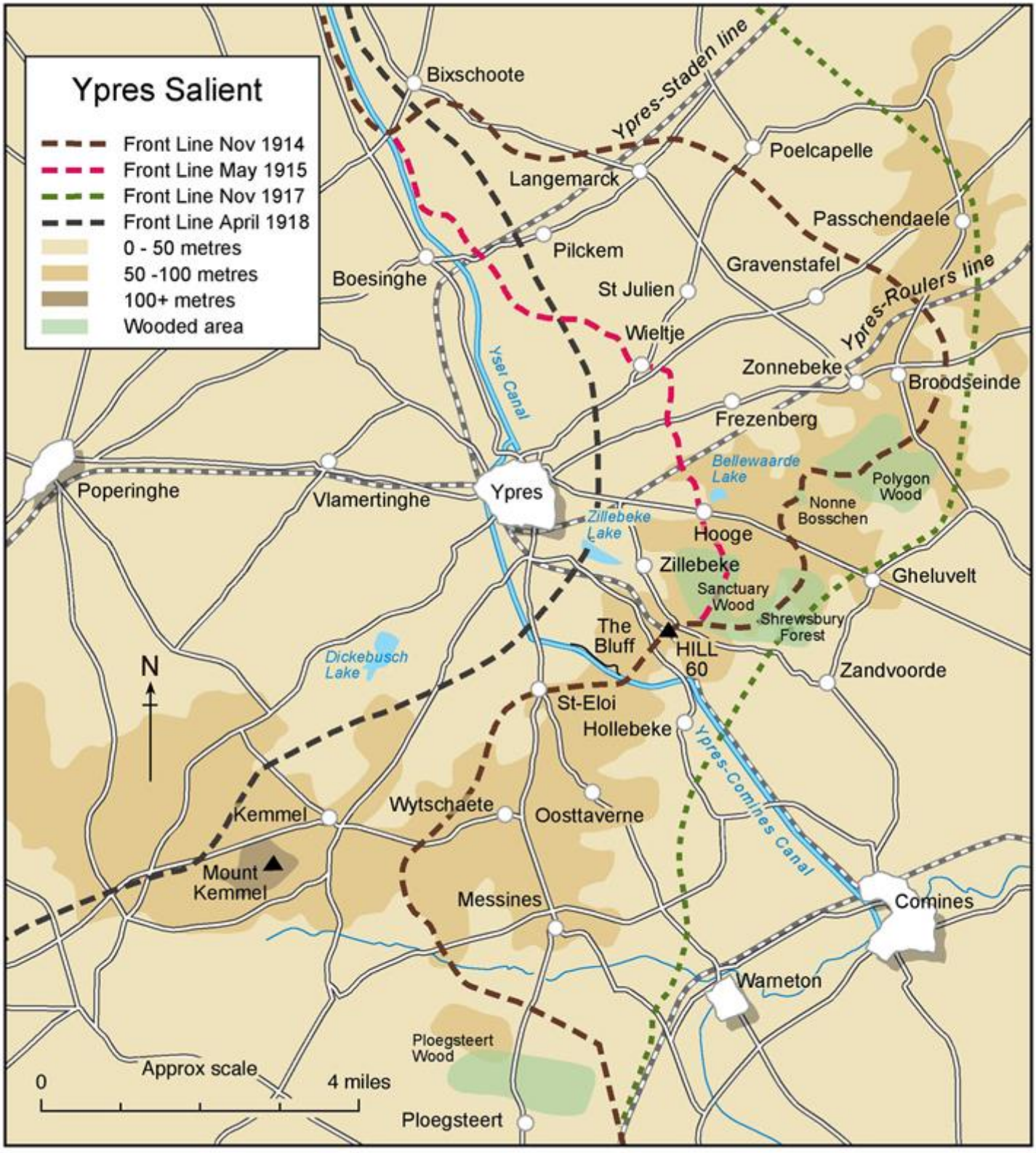
LR/44/1542

Above: **Samuel Pugh's separate war record from 1917, showing the return of his personal possessions to his father James, which included his certificate of exemption (from taking part in direct military front line action).**

When the war broke out in August 1914, Samuel Pugh was aged thirty, and had the option to be exempted from service as he was in essential employment. Nevertheless, by 12 October that year he was in Chester signing on for the Territorials for the duration of the war. He was given the service number 1239 and was posted to the Cheshire Yeomanry. But on 19 February 1915, after a total of 131 days service, he was discharged as 'no longer being physically fit for further war service'. He had given his age as 26 and his date of birth as 8 April 1888 when he signed on in October 1914, but that was the date and age of his younger brother James, who had been labouring on the Mottershead farm in Coddington. The height of 5'6" and occupation of waggoner given on this war record were those of Samuel on his 1917 record. So who was impersonating whom? A mystery yet to be resolved, and unlikely to be, as there is no record of earlier service on Samuel's later war record. Samuel had lied about his age on the 1911 census, saying he was four years older at thirty. Nothing unusual, but it just adds to the inconsistency saying he was older on the census and younger on the war record (if it was him and not James). There is no other record of James in WW1 and he was still alive after and working locally after the war.

Returning to more solid ground, once greater demands were being made upon recruitment into 1917, Samuel was conscripted, and he enlisted on 19 February 1917 in Chester. He was posted to the 8th Labour Company, King's Liverpool Regiment, as Private No. 66517. Usually, the men in these companies consisted of men who were medically not fit enough to serve in front line units, or were possibly too old. It would appear that as he was not in the front line force, intense training was dispensed with and he was in France a month later, landing on 17 March (or was he *already* trained, if that was his earlier war record discussed above?). His experience as a waggoner would have been desperately needed in the Labour Companies, moving equipment and supplies from place to place. Although his war record survives, which is a rare occurrence for Farndon servicemen, little information about his movements is recorded. In the short time he was on active service he was transferred once, when the 8ths became the 73rd Company, Labour Corps. By July he was dead. Killed in action aged thirty-four on 25 July 1917 on the Ypres Salient, Belgium, during the preparations for the Third Battle of Ypres. He had been in the army for only 5 months.

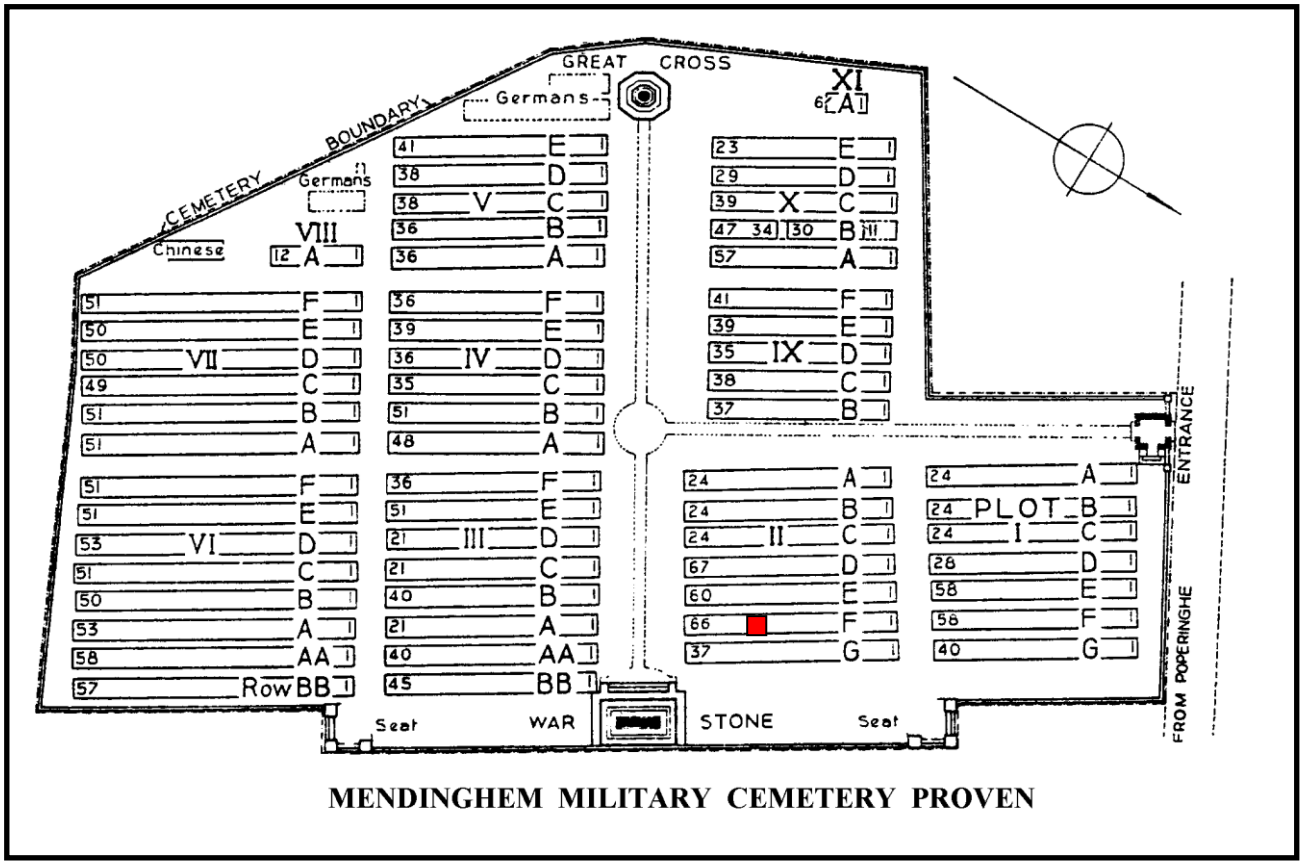



Ypres Salient
Front Line Nov 1914
Front Line May 1915
Front Line Nov 1917
Front Line April 1918
0 - 50 metres
50 -100 metres
100+ metres
Wooded area
Bixschoote
Ypres-Staden line
Poelcapelle
Langemarck
Passchendaele
Pilckem
Gravenstafel
Boesinghe
St Julien
Ypres-Roulers line
Wieltje
Yser Canal
Zonnebeke
Broodseinde
Frezenberg
Bellewaarde Lake
Polygon Wood
Poperinghe
Vlamertinghe
Ypres
Nonne Bosschen
Zillebeke Lake
Hooge
Zillebeke
Gheluvelt
Sanctuary Wood
Shrewsbury Forest
The Bluff
HILL 60
Dickebusch Lake
N
Zandvoorde
St-Eloi
Hollebeke
Ypres-Comines Canal
Kemmel
Wytschaete
Oosttaverne
Mount Kemmel
Messines
Comines
Warneton
Ploegsteert Wood
Approx scale
0
4 miles
Ploegsteert

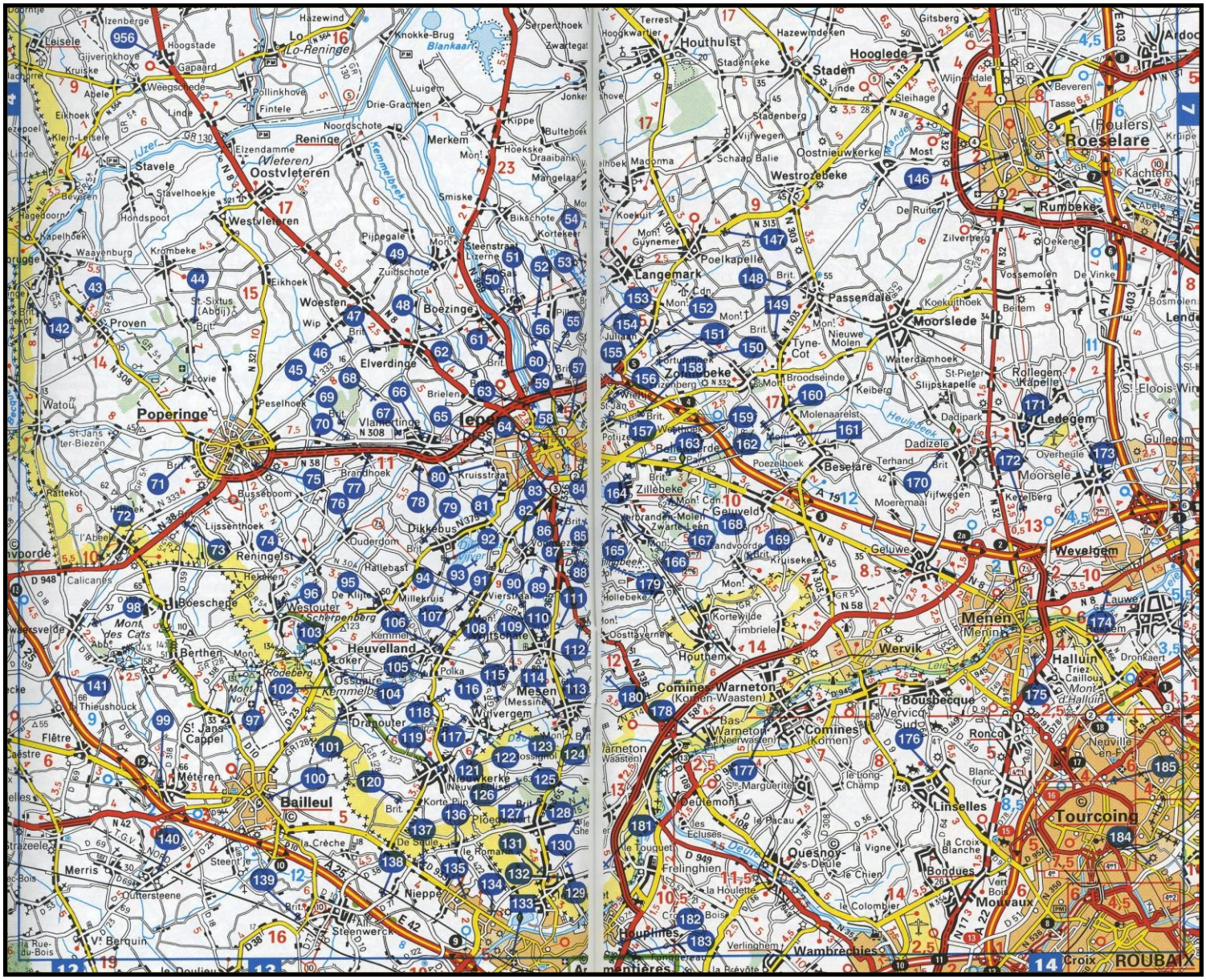
Experience of the Labour Corps Waggoners at the Front

Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Ypres

Samuel was taken to the 64th casualty clearing station at Proven, a few miles to the west of Ypres, behind the Salient trench lines. In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station had been opened at Proven, and this site was chosen for its cemetery. The first burials took place in August 1916. In July 1917, at the time of Samuel's death, four further clearing stations arrived at Proven in readiness for the forthcoming Allied offensive on this front, and three of them, the 46th, 12th and 64th, stayed until 1918. From May to July 1918, while the German offensive was at its height, field ambulances were posted at Proven. The cemetery was closed (except for one later burial) in September 1918. There are now 2,391 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery and 52 German war graves. The cemetery is located 500 metres beyond the village of Proven, near Poperinge. Mendinghem, like Dozinghem and Bandaghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War.



MENDINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY PROVEN



Map extract of the Commonwealth War Graves maintained cemeteries around the former Ypres Salient area, Belgium. Mendingham is No.43 to the top left near Proven.

Above: **King's Liverpool Regiment Memorial, St. John's Gardens, Liverpool, to the rear of St. George's Hall**

Left: **The grave of Samuel's parents in Farndon Churchyard;**

In Loving Memory of
My Dear Wife
SARAH ANN PUGH
Who Died Nov^{r} 28th 1923
Aged 67 Years

At Rest

Also **JAMES PUGH**
Husband of the Above
Who Died Oct 30th 1939
Aged 89 Years

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
PUGH Samuel	L'pool R. Lab. Corps	Pte	66517 43542

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
Victory	LC/101 B/27	2711	
British	D:	D:	
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380.

Samuel Pugh's Medal Card

In Memory of

Private

S Pugh

66517, 8th Labour Coy. The King's Liverpool Regt., transf. to (43542) 73rd Coy., The King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on 25 July 1917

Remembered with Honour

Mendinghem Military Cemetery

Commemorated in perpetuity by

the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Researched and written

by

Mike Royden