



FARNDON DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Remembering the Men of Farndon

Lance Corporal FRANK ERNEST MOSCATE

307055 4th Battalion Tank Corps

Died 29 September 1918

Frank Moscate had an eventful life in his tragically short existence. He had risen from a difficult childhood to be a manager of a saddlers business in Liverpool, had been called up in the conscription of 1916, served in the Royal Field Artillery, the Royal Engineers and the Tank Corps, and had made quite a mark on those he had met, worked and served with, not least his fiancée back in Liverpool.

Frank entered the world into difficult circumstances. Born on 1 August 1893 at 2 Bernhardt's Terrace, Chester, his mother was Johanna Moscati (original spelling of the name), but his father was stated as 'unknown'. Johanna was born Johanna Henderson Leslie in Liverpool in 1858, the daughter of Scottish parents - father George Leslie, a commercial traveller, and mother Catherine Neish. By 1871 she was working as a factory hand, and in 1881 she was a domestic servant, boarding at 248 Exeter Street, Bradford.

Two years later in October 1883, she married Stephen Moscati (born 1862) in Bradford. It was a tragically short union, her new husband dying from rheumatism and heart disease the following year. Four years later she had a son, Robert Leslie Moscati, born in Nov 1888, father 'unknown', but the child died days later in December.

By 1893 Johanna had relocated to Chester, where she gave birth to her second illegitimate son, Frank Ernest Lewis Moscati. She soon secured work, as a domestic servant, then as a cook at Trevalyn Hall, Rossett, a mansion originally built for the powerful Tudor Trevor family. Clearly, an unmarried mother with an illegitimate child was unlikely to hold such a post in the home of a respectable Victorian hall,



therefore Johanna may have muddled the waters by using her status as a widow to cover her situation. Nevertheless, it may have been impossible for her to reside 'downstairs' with an infant. This may explain why young Frank had become a 'ward' of Mrs Elizabeth Taylor of Crewe-by-Farndon (evident on the census of 1901- this status continued until his death and he was still on the electoral roll for Crewe-by-Farndon in 1918). Later in life Johanna seems to have achieved happiness, as she remarried in the summer of 1902 to George William Davies. However, it was to last only six years as she died in Wrexham in 1908.

1883. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St Paul's Manningham in the County of York

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
159	Oct 7, 1883	Stephen Moscatti	21	Bachelor	Bill Poster	Hagworth	Francis Moscatti	Bill Poster
		Johanna Henderson Leslie	25	Spinster	—	Manningham	George Leslie	Traveller

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rite and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Thomas Kirkham Vicar or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Stephen Moscatti in the Presence of us, Milford Drate and Anna Moscatti and Johanna Henderson Leslie

1883. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of St Paul's Manningham in the County of York

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
160	Dec 15, 1883	Alfred Briggs	25	Bachelor	Class	Manningham	Benjamin Briggs	Wood-Brigg
		Elizabeth Hartley	27	Spinster	—	Manningham	Rich and Hartley	Wood-Brigg

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by E. S. Haswell or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Alfred Briggs in the Presence of us, Lester Briggs and Elizabeth Hartley and Mary & Ben J. Hartley

Above: Marriage of Frank's mother, Johanna Henderson Leslie (top)
 Below: Birth Certificate of Frank Moscatti

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
 Application Number 2538467-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT: CHESTER

1893 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Chester Castle in the County Borough of Chester & in the County of Chester


No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
358	First August 1893 2, Bernhardt Terrace, Foregate Street, Chester, etc.	Frank Ernest Lewis	Boy	Stephen Moscatti	Johanna Henderson Moscatti	—	J. B. Moscatti Mother 2, Bernhardt Terrace, Foregate Street, Chester	Eleventh September 1893	E. S. Haswell Registrar	—

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

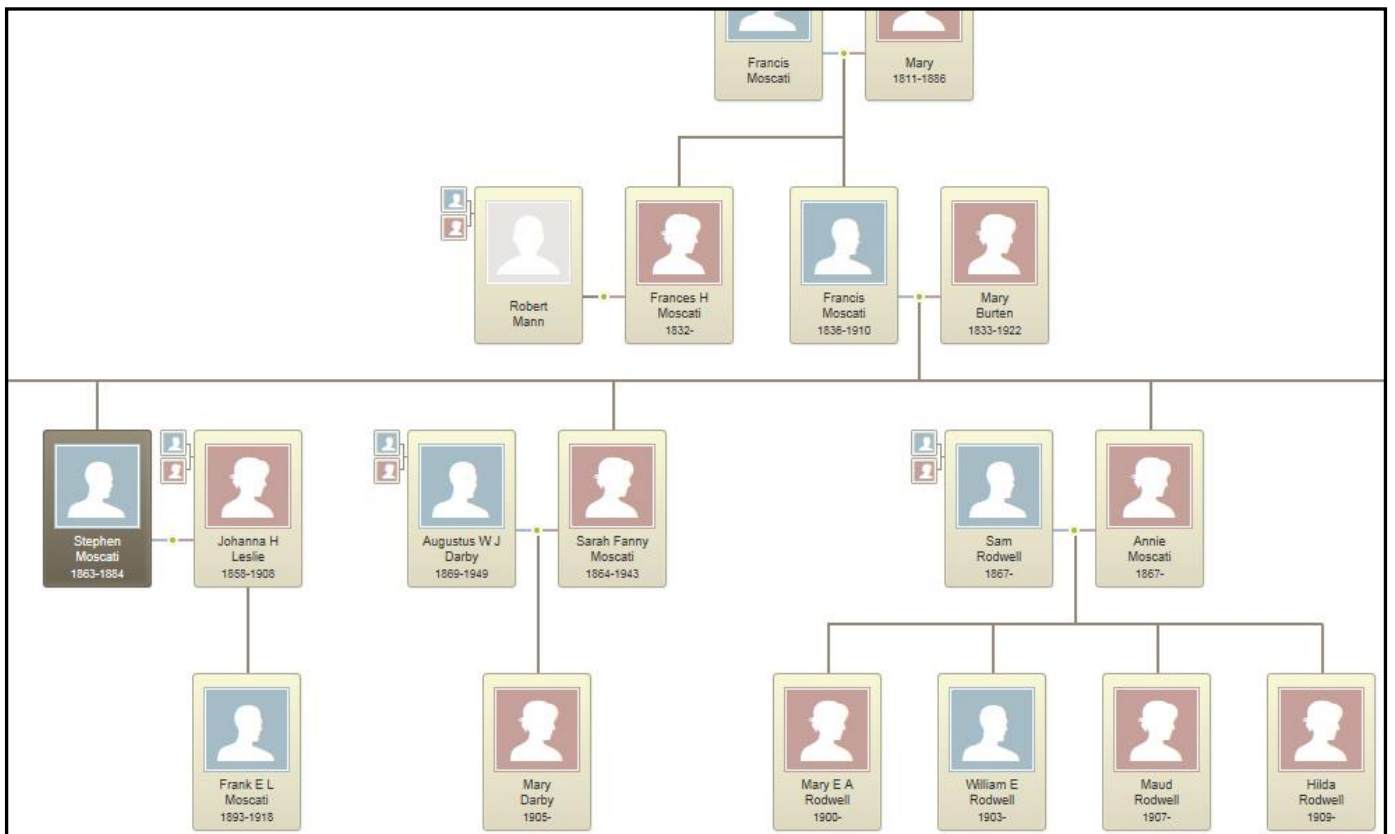
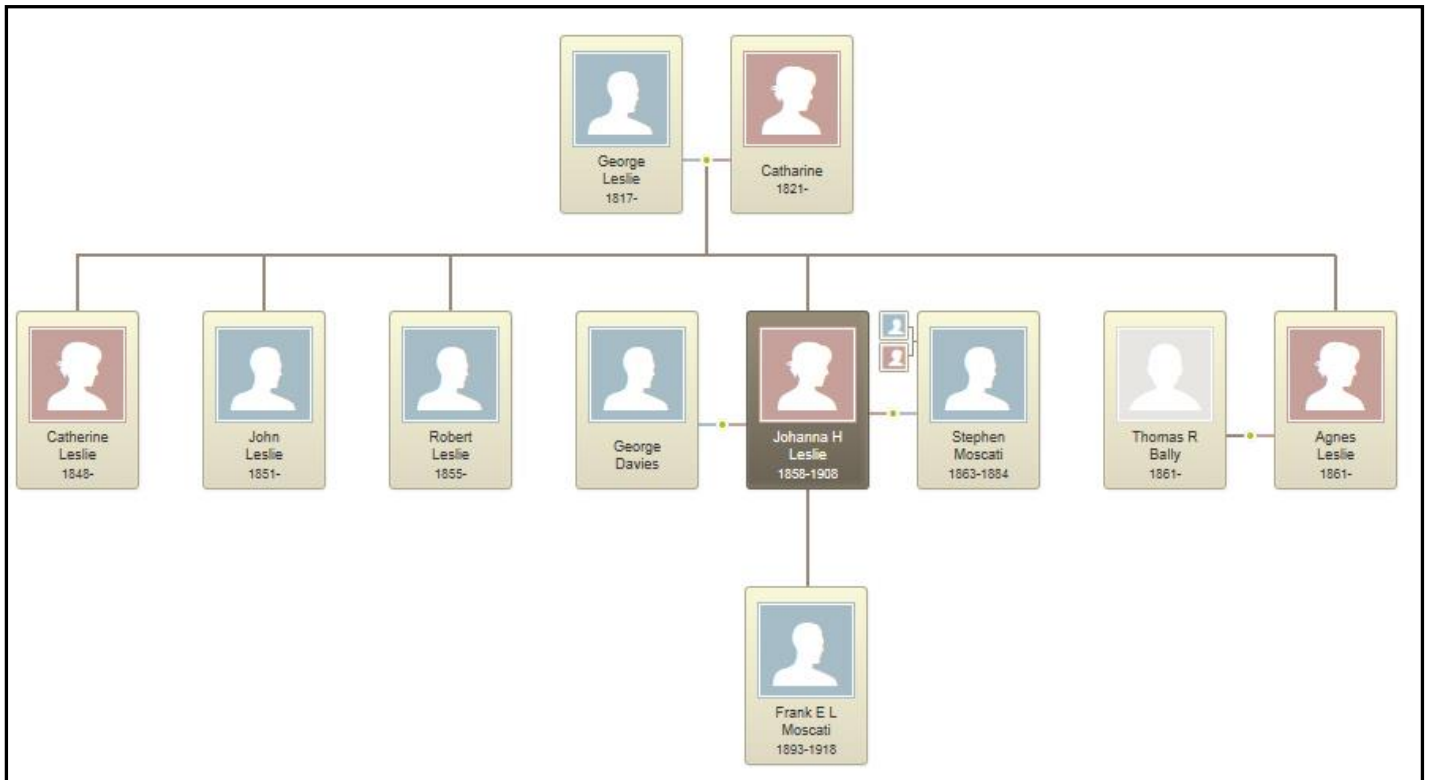
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 6th day of August 2010

BXCE 655248

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 WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.



GPR 09876 25663 1009 344593 024603



Brief extracts of ancestry trees of Frank E Moscate
(research by Susan J Morris)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

17 [Page 27]

Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything, &c., of	Ecological District of				
West Derby	Liverpool	West Derby	Liverpool							
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES (Date entered (U.), or Building (B.))	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of (Male / Female)	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb	
146	142 Spinnest	1	Levi Weston Head	Head	Mar	27	Engine Driver Railway	Widford, Wiltshire		
			Eliza Do Wife	Wife		24		Marston, Essex		
			George Do Son	Son	Mar	1				
147	142 Spinnest	1	William Brown Head	Head	Mar	24	Engine fitter Railway	Widford, Wiltshire		
			Mary Do Wife	Wife		27		Widford, Wiltshire		
			William Do Son	Son	Mar	7	Scholar	Manchester		
			Mary Do Daughter	Daughter		5				
			John Do Son	Son		4				
148	142 Spinnest	1	Thomas Taylor Head	Head	Mar	35	Longdress	Headborough, Wiltshire		
			Maria Do Wife	Wife	Mar	9	Scholar	Spool Lane		
			George Do Son	Son		17				
			Margaret Do Daughter	Daughter		14				
			John Do Son	Son		21	Turner	Chilham, Kent		
149	150 Spinnest	1	Margaret Wilson Head	Head	Mar	40	Nurse	Spool Lane		
			George Do Son	Son	Mar	16	Commercial Traveller	Scotland		
			Esther Do Wife	Wife		16				
			Esther Do Daughter	Daughter	Mar	13	Scholar			
			John Do Son	Son		11				
			Robert Do Son	Son		6				
			Thomas Do Son	Son		2		Spool Lane		
			George Do Son	Son		5				
5	Total of Houses...	4	Total of Males and Females...							8/13

Census
 1861 Leslie family in Liverpool (top)
 1871 Leslie family in Barnsley (bottom)

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 3.]

Parish [or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Sanitary Authority (Name of)	Ecological District of			
Barnsley	Barnsley	South West	Barnsley	Barnsley			St George			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (Date entered (U.), or Building (B.))	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of (Male / Female)	RANK, PROFESSION, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether 1. Deaf and Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic	
15	21 Lancaster	1	Francis Colley Head	Head	Mar	40	Shoemaker	York, Barnsley		
			Maria Do Wife	Wife	Mar	39		Do Do		
			John Do Son	Son	Mar	16	Scamptop	Do Do		
			Mary Do Daughter	Daughter	Mar	9	Scholar	Do Do		
			Elizabeth Do Daughter	Daughter		7	do	Do Do		
			Harriet Do Daughter	Daughter		3		Do Do		
			John Do Son	Son		6		Do Do		
16	23 Do	1	Thos Ward Head	Head	Mar	29	Bricklayer	Leitchfield, Wiltshire		
			Maria Do Wife	Wife	Mar	29		do Leich. Ross		
			George Do Son	Son		15	Scholar	Surrey, Battersea		
			Robert Do Son	Son		3		do do		
			Thos Do Son	Son		3		York, Barnsley		
17			John Stanger Head	Head	W	36		do Stages Works		
			Mary Do Wife	Wife		14		do Barnsley		
			John Do Son	Son		5		do Barnsley		
18	25 Do	1	Geo Leslie Head	Head	Mar	54	Factory Operator	Scotland		
			Maria Do Wife	Wife	Mar	50		do		
			Robert Do Son	Son	Mar	14	Warehouse Porter	do		
			John Do Son	Son		12	Craftsman	Liverpool		
19			John Do Head	Head	Mar	10	Scholar	London		
			William Do Son	Son		2	Bricklayer	Brighthelm, Wellington		
			Arthur Do Son	Son	Mar	23		Scotland		
			Geo Do Son	Son		2		London		
			John Do Son	Son		4		Staffordshire, Stoke		
5	Total of Houses...	3	Total of Males and Females...							12/12

Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 1					
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet					
of <u>Yarmdon</u>		of <u>Yarmdon</u>		of		of		of <u>Jarvin</u>		of <u>Cullinston</u>		of <u>Furdon</u>					
Col. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Not in Occupation	Building	Number of Persons	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Condition as to Marriage	Age last Birthday of	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	
1	<u>Beak's Road</u>	1				5	<u>Maitha Haypin</u>	Head	Married	58	<u>Farmer</u>	own and at home		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
						2	<u>Martha Jane Haypin</u>	Daughter	Single	35	<u>Domestic</u>	own acct at home		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
						3	<u>Joseph Lewis Haypin</u>	Son	Single	20	<u>Boys</u>	Worker		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
						4	<u>Harry Haypin</u>	Son	Single	17	<u>Boys</u>	Worker		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
2	<u>Cross Lane</u>	1				6	<u>Philip Norman</u>	Head	Married	66	<u>Boys</u>	own account at home		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
						7	<u>Catherine Norman</u>	Wife	Married	67		at home		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
						8	<u>Edwin Norman</u>	Head	Married	35	<u>Boys</u>	Worker		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
						9	<u>Mary Stanley</u>	Wife	Married	35				<u>Do</u>	<u>Delamere</u>		
						10	<u>Joseph Stanley</u>	Son	Single	18				<u>Do</u>	<u>Furdon</u>		
						11	<u>Amy Stanley</u>	Daughter	Single	9				<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						12	<u>Edwin Stanley</u>	Son	Single	7				<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						13	<u>Ann Stanley</u>	Daughter	Single	15				<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						14	<u>Arthur Stanley</u>	Son	Single	3				<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						15	<u>Albert Stanley</u>	Son	Single	6 mths				<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
4		1				6	<u>Edward Cheshire</u>	Head	Married	32	<u>Coachman</u>	Worker		<u>Salop</u>	<u>Cheshire</u>		
						7	<u>Mary Cheshire</u>	Wife	Married	35				<u>Derbyshire</u>	<u>Cheshire</u>		
						8	<u>Edith Cheshire</u>	Daughter	Single	13				<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						9	<u>Alfred Cheshire</u>	Son	Single	8				<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
5		1				6	<u>Eliza Taylor</u>	Head	Married	54	<u>Housewife</u>	at home		<u>Cheshire</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						7	<u>Joseph Taylor</u>	Son	Single	30	<u>General</u>	Worker		<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						8	<u>William Taylor</u>	Son	Single	26	<u>General</u>	Worker		<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						9	<u>Alfred Taylor</u>	Son	Single	33	<u>General</u>	Worker		<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						10	<u>Lavinia Taylor</u>	Daughter	Single	18	<u>General</u>	Worker		<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						11	<u>Robert Taylor</u>	Son	Single	50	<u>Book</u>	Worker		<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						12	<u>Frank Mossall</u>	Son	Single	7				<u>Cheshire</u>	<u>Do</u>		
6		1				6	<u>George Edge</u>	Head	Married	43	<u>Boys</u>	own account		<u>Cheshire Yarmdon</u>			
						7	<u>Elizabeth Edge</u>	Wife	Married	44	<u>Laundress</u>	Worker		<u>Derbyshire</u>	<u>Cheshire</u>		
						8	<u>Mary Jackson</u>	Wife	Married	80	<u>at home</u>			<u>Do</u>	<u>Do</u>		
						9	<u>Mary Edge</u>	Niece	Single	13				<u>Derbyshire</u>	<u>Cheshire</u>		
6	Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	6				10	Total of Males and of Females...			14	15						

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

Census 1901 (top), 1911 (bottom)
Frank E Moscate

GENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedule: 122
(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	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
<u>Elizabeth Taylor</u>	Head	65	Widow	Nurse (month)	<u>Wolpe</u>	<u>Cheshire</u>	
<u>William Taylor</u>	Son	36	Single	Under Gardener	<u>Wolpe</u>	<u>Cheshire</u>	
<u>Frank Edward Mossall</u>	Son	17	Single	Boys	<u>Wolpe</u>	<u>Cheshire</u>	

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Total	Males	Females	Persons
	2	1	3

(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, Pantries, or Apartments). Count the kitchen as a room but do not count scullery, landing, lobby, closet, bathroom, nor warehouse, office, shop.

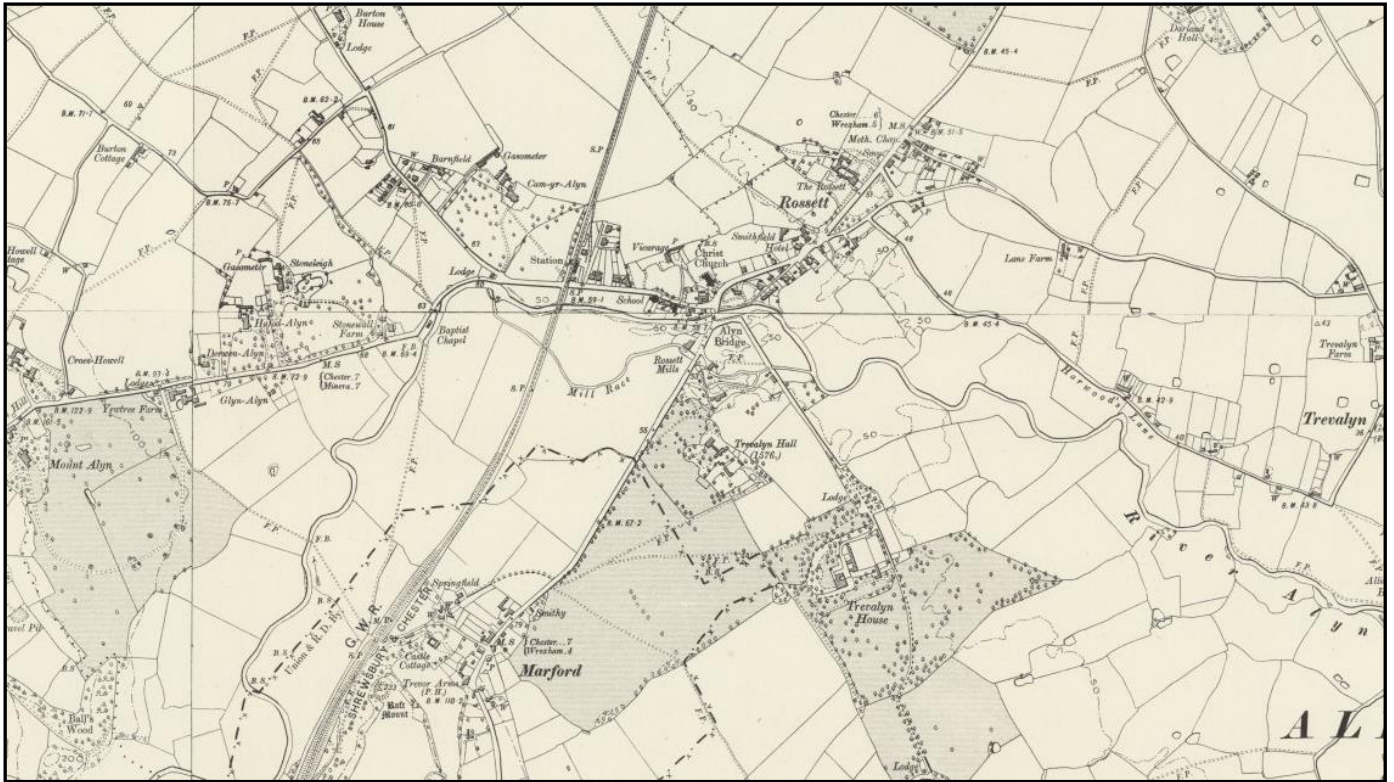
I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Elizabeth Taylor
Postal Address: Wolpe, Furdon, Cheshire

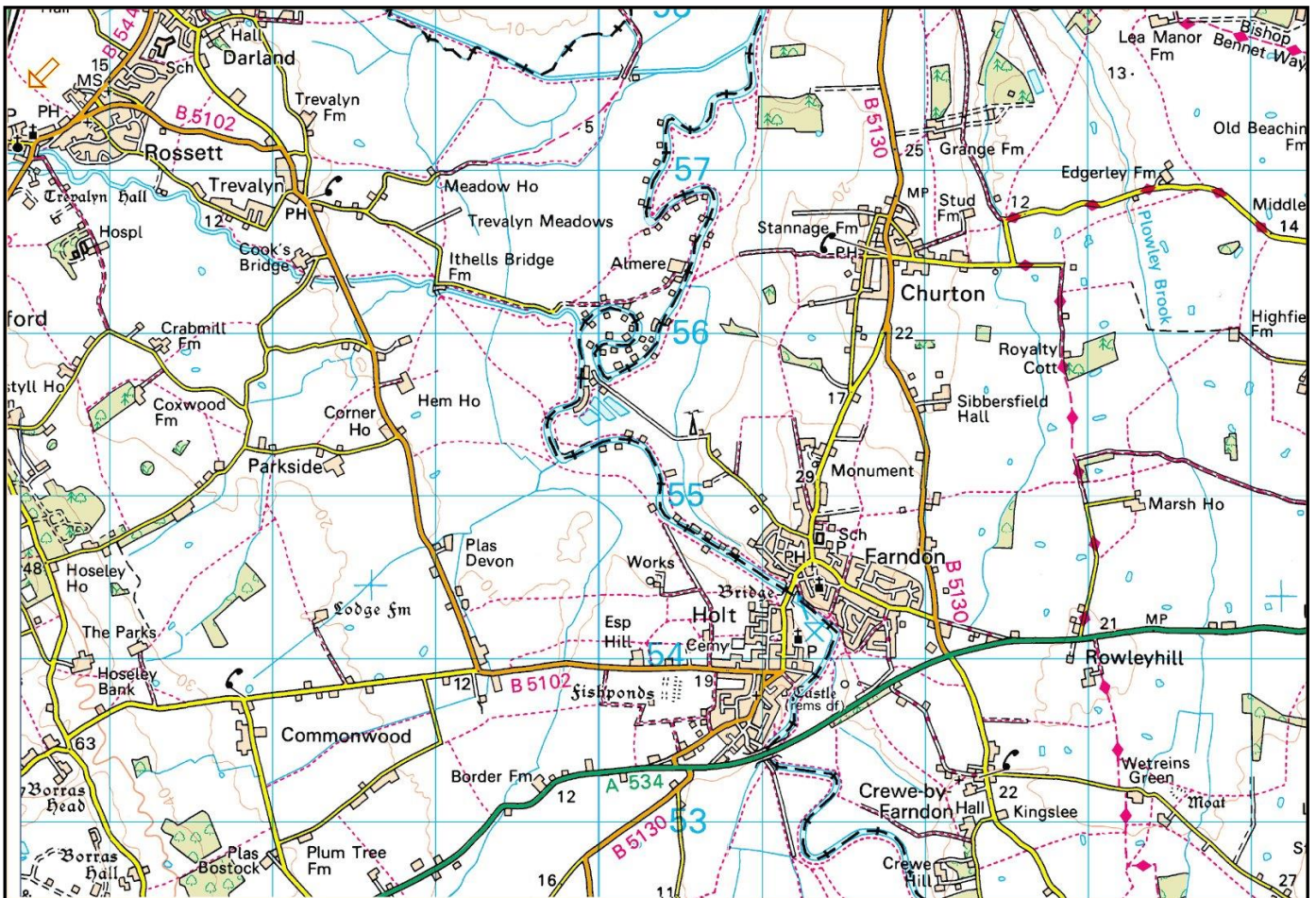
4 Rooms



Trevalyn Hall, Rossett, in the 19th Century and today



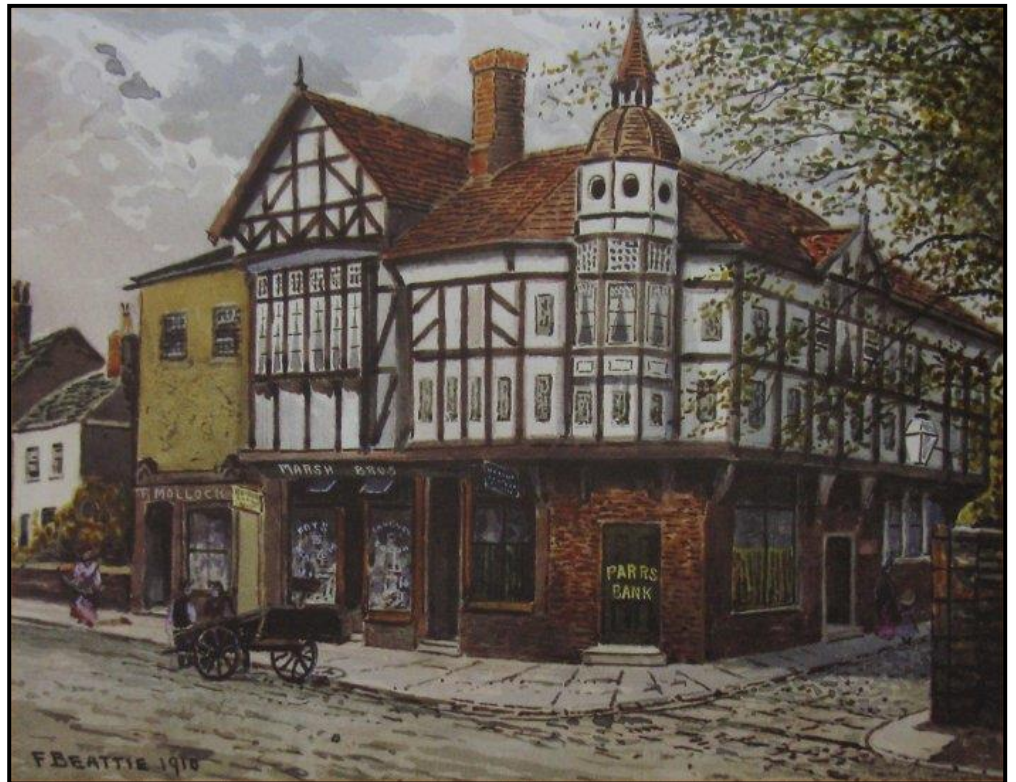
Trevalyn Hall, Rossett
 Above: In the late 1890s (centre)
 Below: Modern map (the hall is far left), and also showing its proximity to Crewe-by-Farndon



Frank had now anglicised his name to Moscate, and no doubt enjoyed growing up in the Cheshire countryside, in what was now a more stable environment with Mrs Taylor. Her son William was a saddler's apprentice, while another son was a groom, so there can be little doubt they both encouraged young Frank to take up the saddlers trade too.

By 1912, through their contacts in the trade, Frank had secured a position in Liverpool. He was employed as a saddler by Thomas Henry Mullock, who had a business in the brow in Gateacre village. He also provided accommodation for Frank at his home at 89 St. Mary's Road, Garston. Frank was soon trusted to manage the business for Thomas, which he did for four years, and appeared to be popular with those who knew him. He also caught the eye of Lillian Brown, who lived nearby at the village crossroads at 5 Halewood Road, and they soon became engaged.

The painting shows Gateacre Brow in 1910, around the time of Frank's employment at Mullock's, the shop on the left. (F.Beattie, 1910).



The same site today, with the former Mulluck's saddlery just visible on the right.



Gateacre village c.1895

Halewood Road runs from the cross roads in the centre towards The Nook. Mullock's shop is just below where the letter 'w' of Gateacre Brow is marked. Lillian's house faced the school on Halewood Road.

28 Gateacre Brow, Liverpool

The building dates from before 1835, and after its use as a saddlers shop, it later became a greengrocers, a ladies hairdressers and a double-glazing showroom before being converted to an antiques shop/art gallery in 2014.



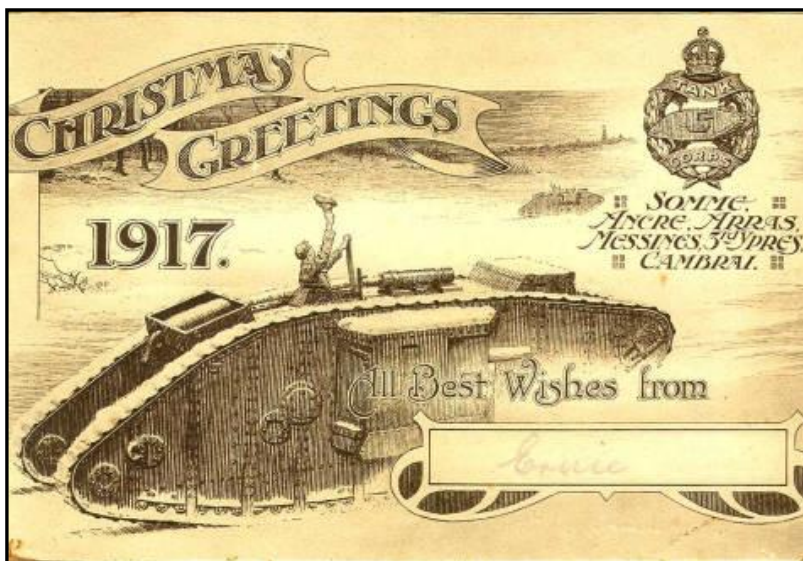
Gateacre Brow 1902

Number 28 is the white shop on the left at the time of Mullock's ownership.

MOSCATE September 29, killed instantaneously when returning from action, aged 25 years, Gunner FRANK E. MOSCATE Tank Corps, of Farndon, Cheshire (Pembroke Lodge 1299).—Deeply mourned by Lillian, 5, Halewood-road, Gateacre

Obituary notice placed in the local Liverpool press by Lillian Brown

In January 1916, Frank heeded the call up, conscription having just been introduced for the first time. He joined the Royal Field Artillery as a gunner, but was quickly transferred to the Royal Engineers and then the newly formed Tank Corps where he was promoted to Lance Corporal. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion Tank Regiment, which had been formed in 1917.



Left: A postcard sent home by Gunner Ernest Powell (4th Battalion, Tank Corps) to his mother. Powell was in the same battalion as Frank.

These were the pioneering days for the Tank Corps, originally being formed as Companies of the Heavy Section Machine Gun Corps, designated A, B, C and D. Each Company consisted of 4 Sections of 3 tanks of each type. Companies had another machine in reserve. In November 1916, the Companies were expanded to Battalions,

carrying the same letter designations. An expansion programme was ordered by GHQ, to build a force of 14 additional Battalions. The Tank Corps was formed from the Heavy Branch MGC on 27 July 1917, and the Battalions adopted numbering rather than letter designations.

It is gratifying to know we have a local hero who was involved in the pioneering days of the Tank.

After extensive training in the new battle machines, he arrived in France in January 1918, and was soon in action. The specific movements of the 4th battalion are not yet known, but this extract from *The Long Long Trail* (www.1914-1918.net/tanks.htm) gives a flavour of the action the tanks were involved in;

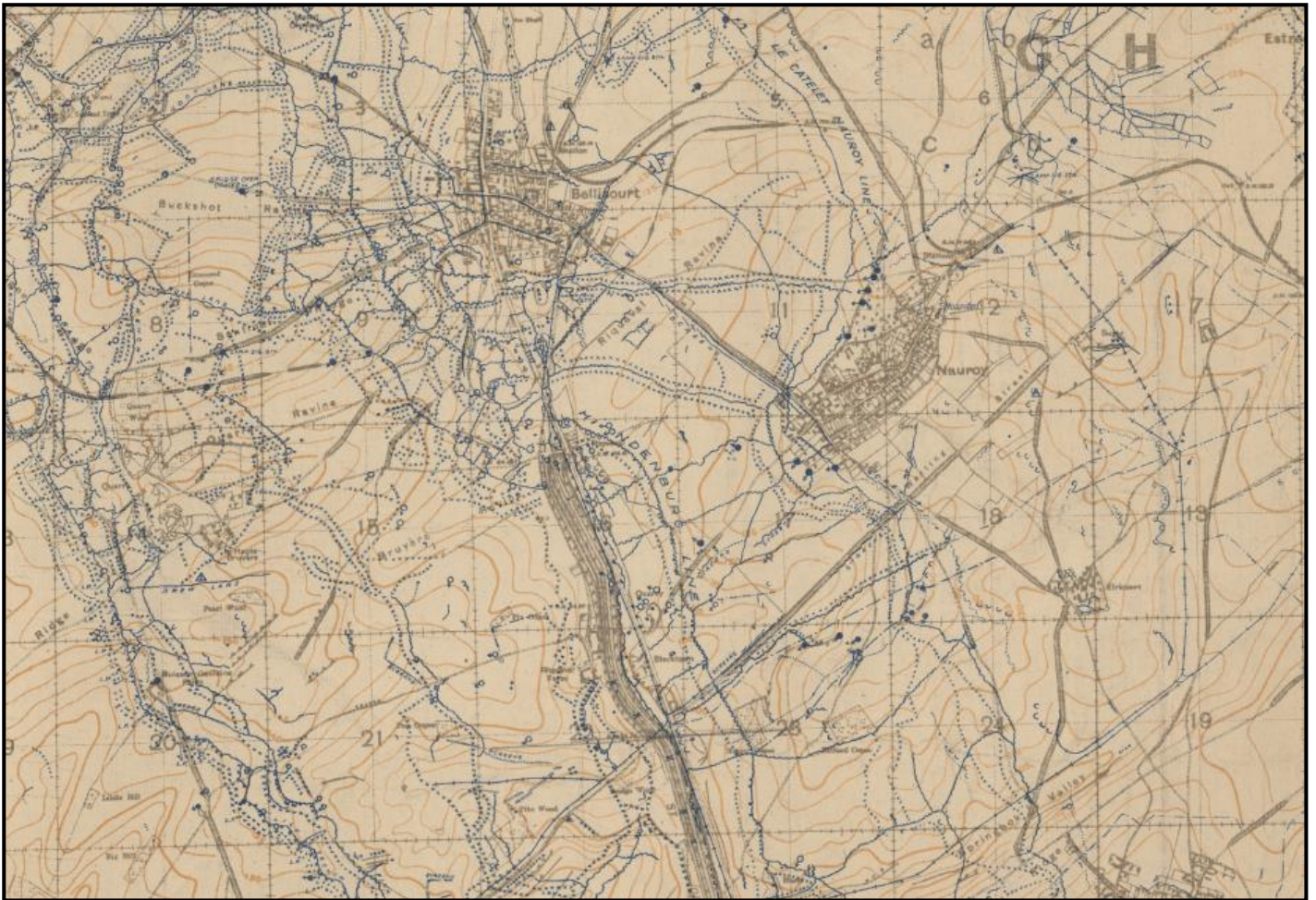
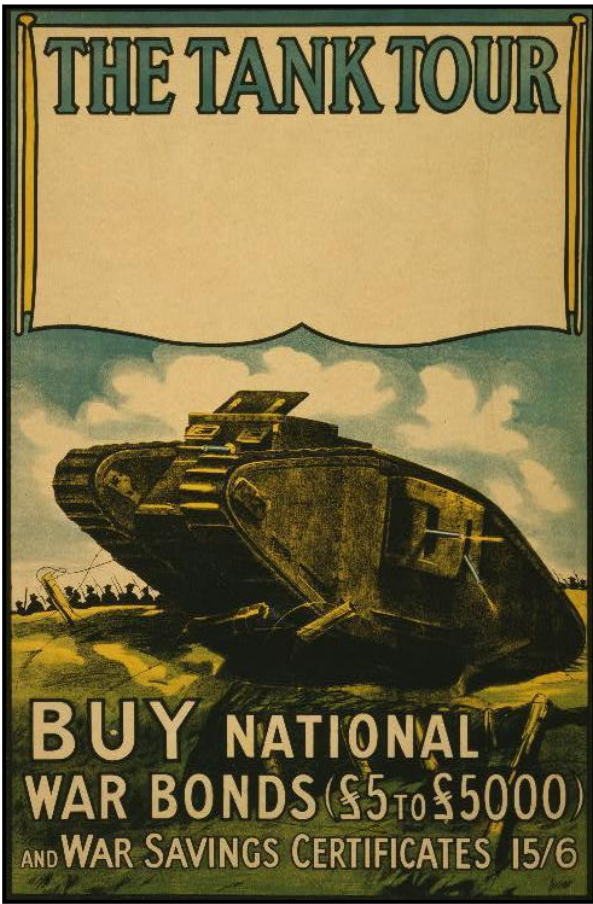
'When the German army attacked in March 1918, British tanks were little used as a defensive weapon, but played an important part in the extraordinary counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux on 24-25 April. During this action they faced for the first time the few German tanks that were ever produced. (The Germans also used captured British tanks, mostly from Cambrai). On 4 July 1918 at Le Hamel and in front of Amiens on 8 August 1918, tanks played a central role in the crushing success of the Allied attack. Before Hamel, the Australian Corps carried out intensive training with the tanks in order to overcome lingering doubts after Bullecourt and to tighten up infantry/tank co-operation. 450 of them took part in the Amiens attack, where the Whippets and various armoured cars penetrated deep behind the German defences. In conjunction with the new artillery and infantry tactics, tanks proved to be useful in crushing wire; over-running machine gun posts and strong points; helping infantry through the streets of destroyed villages. However, tank losses were significant and within days of the initial

assault the Tank Corps was a temporarily spent force. It was not until the assaults on the Hindenburg Line in late September 1918 that a large enough force had been assembled again. From 21 August 1918 to the Armistice on 11 November 1918, some 2,400 men and officers of the Tank Corps became casualties.'

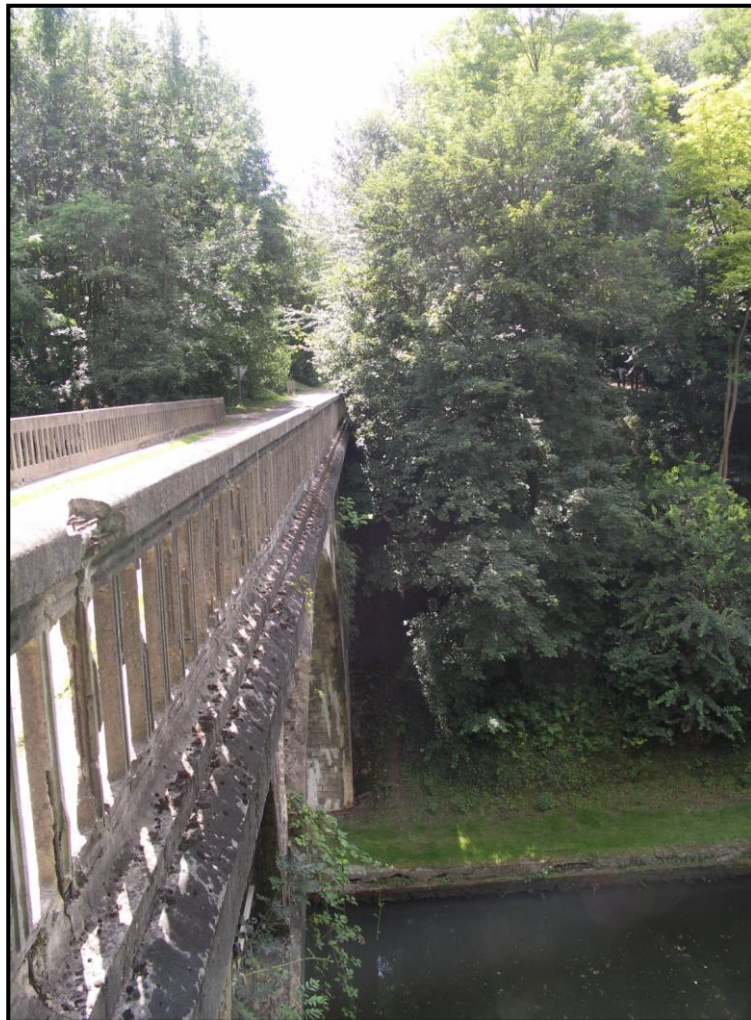
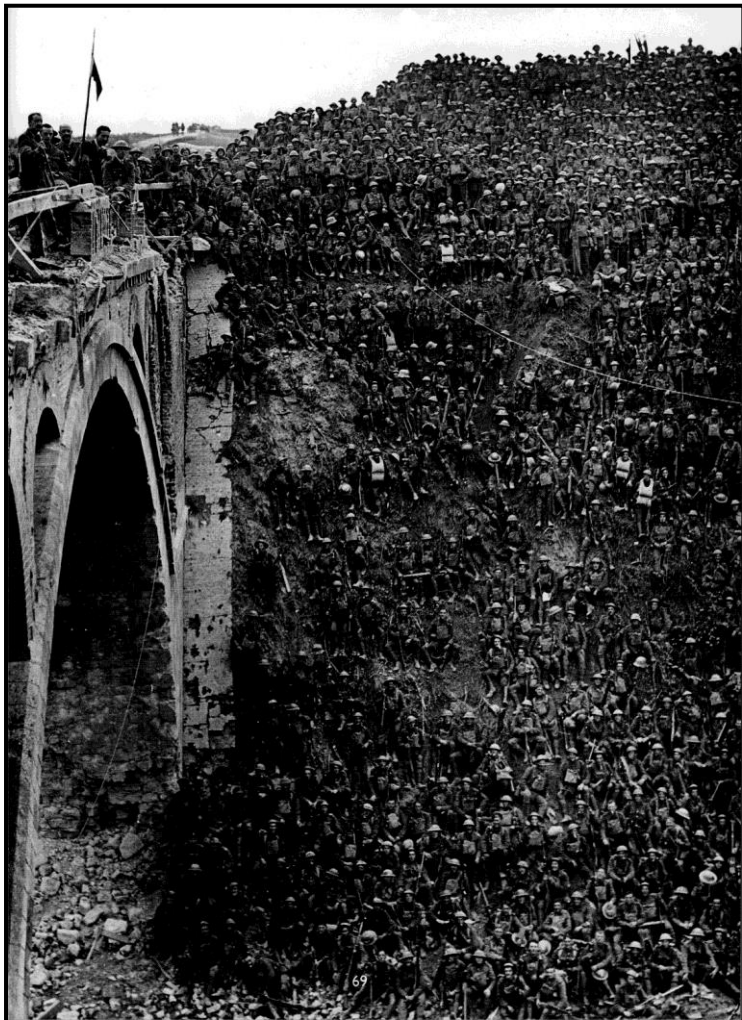


Breaking the Hindenburg Line by William Longstaff.





Battle of St Quentin Trench Lines - September 1918
Showing the village of Bellicourt where Frank Moscate was buried, and the Riqueval Bridge (*centre, bottom*)



Above: Then and now - Riqueval Bridge in 1918 and 2007

Right: The memorial plaque at the end of the bridge.

In the 1918 photograph, men of the 137th Brigade are being addressed by their commander following the taking of the canal and bridge.



It was this engagement on the Hindenburg Line in late September 1918 in which Frank lost his life. The local Liverpool press were informed and carried the following story;

'News has reached Gateacre of the death in France of Gunner [sic] Frank E. Moscate of the Tank Corps, as the result of an enemy shell burst while he was returning from action on 29th September. Twenty-five years of age, he was a native of Farndon, Cheshire, but had lived for six years with Mr T.H. Mullock of Garston, by whom he was employed. For four years he managed Mr Mullock's saddlery business at Gateacre, and was very popular there and at Garston. He joined up in January 1916, and was first in the Royal Field Artillery, being afterwards transferred to the Royal Engineers and then to the Tank Corps. He went to France eight months ago. The officer in charge of his section writes:-

"He had just left the Tank and was returning to the base when a shell burst directly amongst the crew. Frank and the corporal were killed instantaneously, and three others were badly wounded. I have only been his crew officer for a little over a month, and already I had begun to like him as a man, and appeared to appreciate him in every way. He was always very plucky, and very much liked by everyone in the company. I sympathise with you from the bottom of my heart."

The Reverend Allen Hobbes, chaplain, in a message to his mother says:-

"He was walking with his officer and other comrades on the side of the hill not in view of the enemy near (censored) when a shell fell in the midst of the corps, and killed two, including Frank, and wounded several others. He was buried a

few hours later near to the spot where he fell. The news will come to you as a sudden shock and a surprise, but you will, I hope, be comforted in knowing that he had done his best and the highest that any man could do - he has given his life for his friends. He was much liked by his comrades and officers, and was thought very highly of by all because he was fearless in the carrying out of his duty, and unselfish in the disregard of his personal safety."

Miss Lillian Brown of Gateacre, his fiancée, for whom sympathy is felt, has received a letter of sympathy, among others, from the Pembroke Lodge of Freemasons, of which Gunner Moscate was a member.'



Lillian (left) waved Frank off at Lime Street Station, as he left to join his battalion. It was the last time she would see him. Lillian never married.

Bellicourt British Cemetery

Frank Moscate was buried in Bellicourt British Cemetery. Bellicourt is a village 13 kilometres north of St. Quentin and 28 kilometres south of Cambrai and is near the Riqueval Canal which saw major action during the latter months of the war. This fact, together with the date of his death on 29 September 1918, would suggest he was involved in the Battle of St. Quentin.

The Canal de St. Quentin passes under the village of Bellicourt in a tunnel five kilometres long, built under the orders of Napoleon I. The Hindenburg Line ran west of the village, and the barges in the tunnel were used to shelter German reserves. About five kilometres south of Bellicourt, where the canal is open, is the village of Bellenglise, where another great tunnel or dug-out was made by the Germans. On 29 September - 2 October 1918, the Battle of the St. Quentin Canal was fought. The 46th (North Midland) Division stormed the Hindenburg Line at Bellenglise and captured 4,000 prisoners and 70 guns. The 30th United States Division captured Bellicourt and Nauroy, which were cleared by the 5th Australian Division. The Tank Corps were used to spearhead these actions. Lance Corporal Frank Moscate was killed in action on the first day of the battle.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission reports that the North Midland and Australian dead of this engagement fill most of the graves in Bellicourt British Cemetery. The cemetery was made after the battle, when 73 dead were buried in what is now Plot I. It was greatly enlarged after the Armistice, when graves were brought from smaller cemeteries and from the surrounding battlefields. Bellicourt British Cemetery now contains 1,204 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 313 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 21 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.



The story of Frank Moscate certainly has Dickensian overtones; a mother who was moving from place to place in her childhood, following the route of wherever her father's trade took the family; the drudgery of the factory work of the dark satanic mills of Bradford; a tragic marriage of only a few months; not one, but two illegitimate children – one who dies within days. Her probable flight from a disapproving community, back to the only place she may have felt at home, with her surviving infant son. Her attempt at a new life, compromised by the decision to place her son as the ward of a family into a situation that couldn't have been more different from where she had fled from. Finding happiness late in life, only for it to be cut short by her early death. And out of this, Frank advanced himself, illegitimate, but cared for by his new family, and no doubt regularly visited by his mother, who worked a few miles away in a

beautiful Tudor mansion in the picturesque village of Rossett. His move to the Edwardian vibrancy of Liverpool, making such an impression that he became manager of the owners business within a short time. Becoming engaged to a local girl, and reaching such a position in Liverpool society that he was invited to join the local lodge of Freemasons. An eventful war service, his move to the Tank Corps – many were volunteers – to take up the unknown challenge of serving as part of a tank crew in an unbearably hot, deafening and claustrophobic environment, always at the risk of the machine

becoming stuck in mud or just breaking down in the middle of no-mans land. And the complete bad luck of his death only five weeks before the Armistice – to be hit by a shell fired without the gunner knowing precisely where it would land – as he and his tank crew comrades were walking out of view to safety behind the lines after another demanding sortie. The image of his distraught family and fiancée. Such a life has been the stuff of novels and films, but this was real and has now been rediscovered for a new generation.

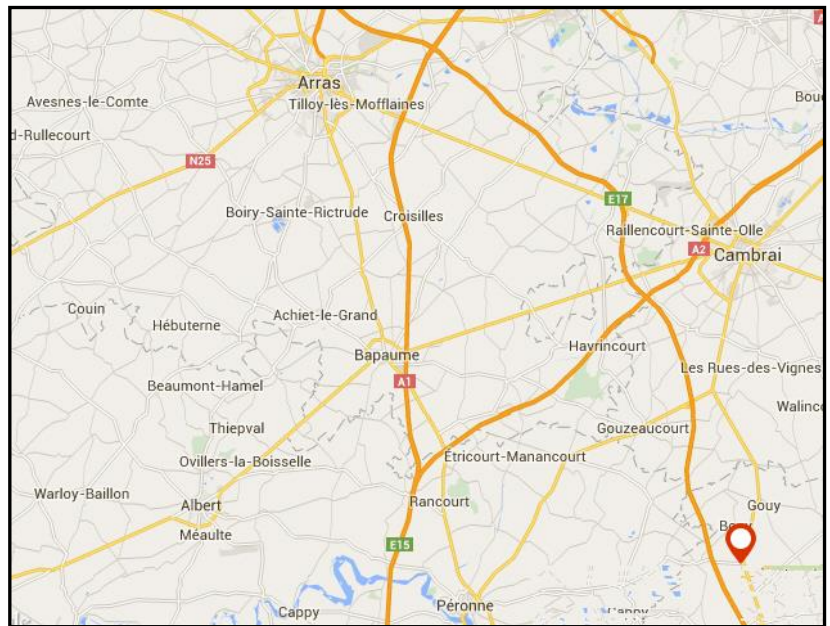
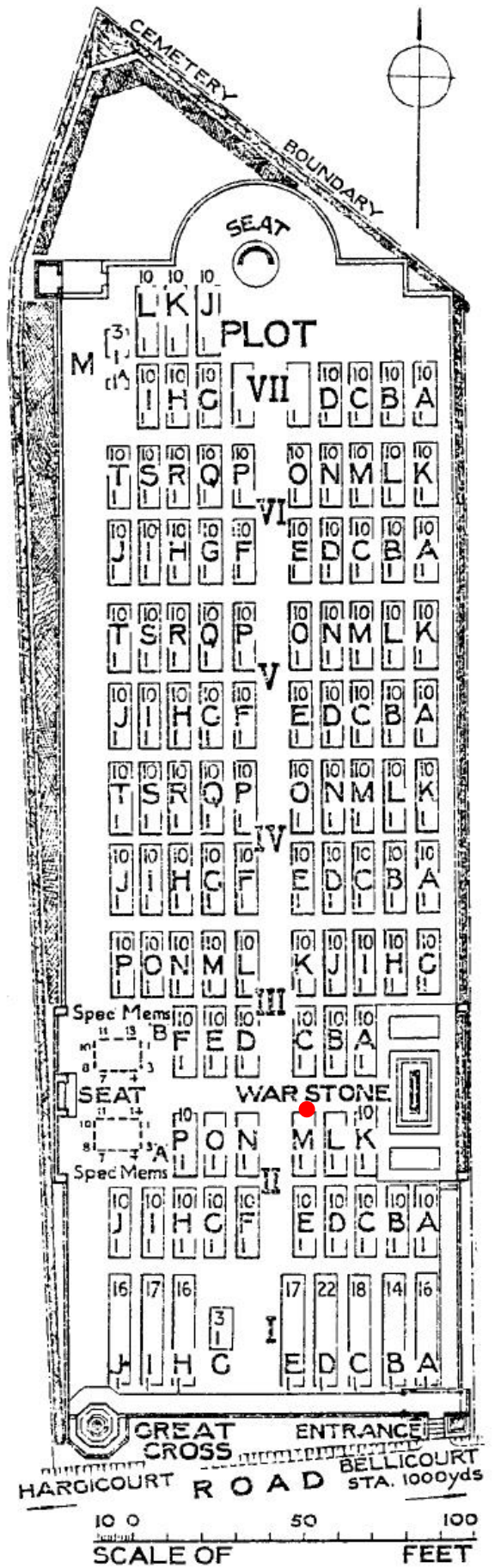
When I stood in front of Frank's grave in the summer of 2007, I was again overcome with the sad thoughts that here again was a forgotten man. We may have our poppies and remembrance days and memorials, but too often it seems the history and knowledge of particular individuals has been long lost. Frank appeared to be another name on a memorial that no one seemed to know anything about.

On my return, I wrote a short article about him and placed it on the Farndon web site with the photograph of his grave. Several lines of inquiry, including an extensive trawl through local newspapers, proved fruitless. However, in the summer of 2010, I was contacted by a former mature student of mine, Ron Brown, an expert on the history of the Woolton and Gateacre area of Liverpool. His help had been requested by the Gateacre Society on behalf of Jenny Corless, who was the great-niece of Lillian Brown, the fiancée of Frank Moscate. Jenny was able to provide valuable information about Frank's mother, while Ron turned up Liverpool news reports about Frank's death and local illustrations. Co-incidentally, only two weeks later, I was then contacted by Shane Abdelnour (nee Moscati), who provided more information about Johanna's life and various census records. Jenny Corless had also received help and assistance from Heather Jones of Cheshire Family History Society and Beryl Plent of the Gateacre Society. This article, therefore, could not have been written without their input and I thank all for their help.

Frank Moscate had clearly not been forgotten.





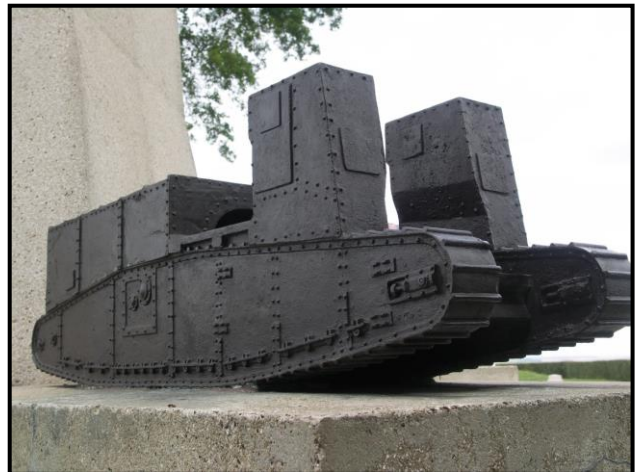
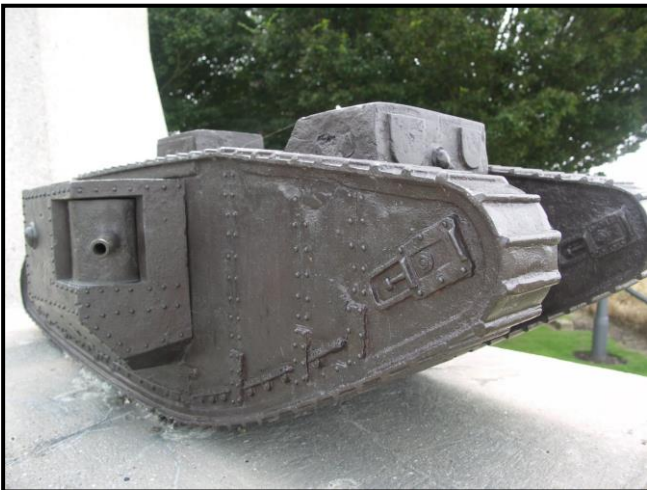


Above: Bellicourt British Cemetery (right) in relation to the Somme battlefield to the west.

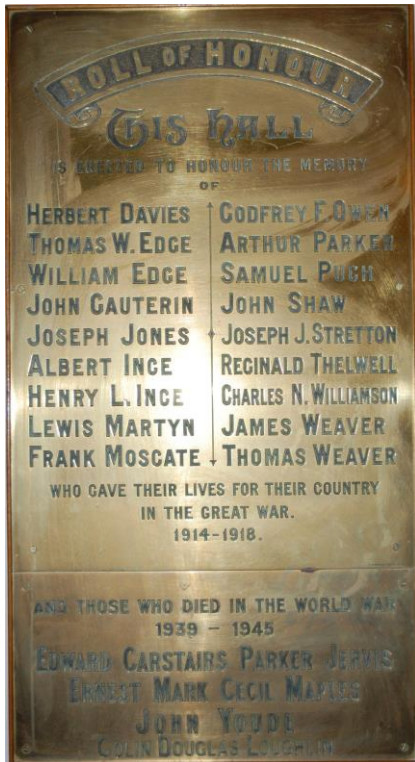
Left: The red marker show the site of the grave of Frank Moscate.

BELLICOURT BRITISH CEMETERY.

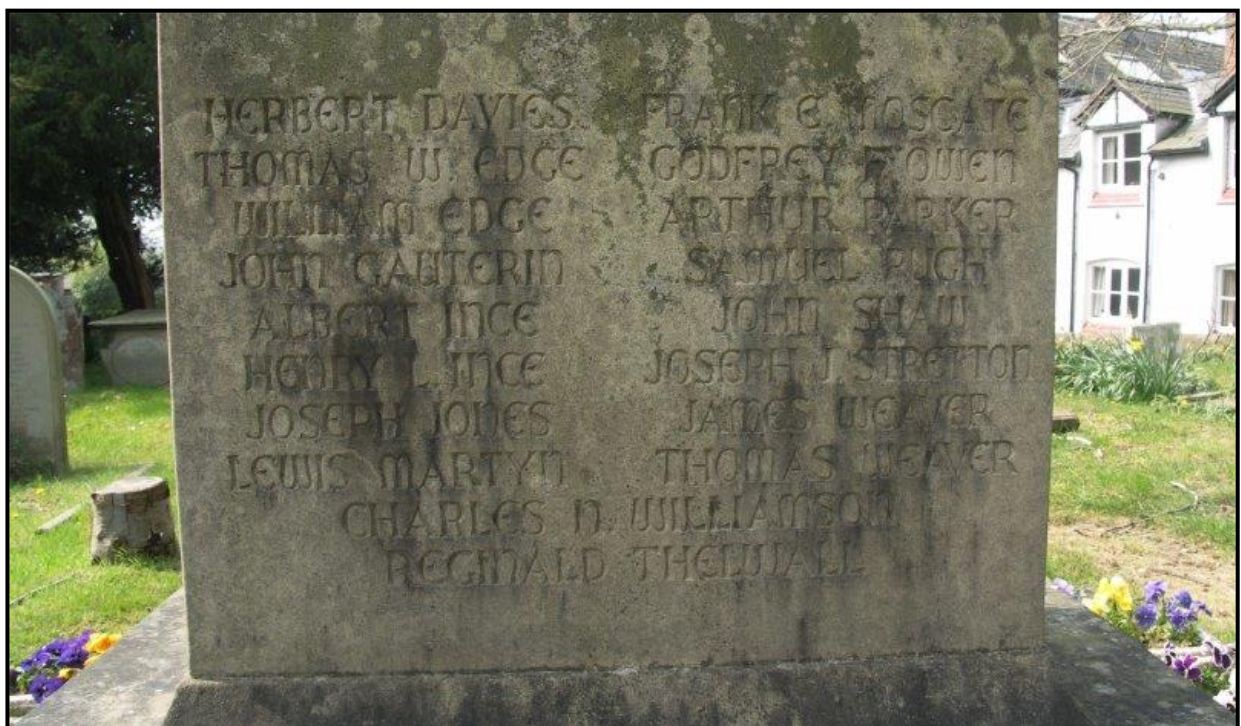




Memorial to the Men of the Tank Corps, Pozieres on the Somme, near Albert



Farndon War Memorial
Left: the memorial plaque located in the entrance hall in the adjacent Memorial Hall (top left).



Name.		Corps.	Rank	Regt. No.
MOSCATE		Tank Corps	L/Cpl.	307055
Frank Ernest				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remark.	
VICTORY			Died 29-9-18	
BRITISH				
STAR				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				
			E/6775-71/1	K 1386.

Medal Cards and Memorial Plaque card Medals, plaque and scrolls



In Memory of
Lance Corporal
F E Moscate

307055, 4th Bn., Tank Corps who died on 29 September 1918 Age 25

Ward of Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, of Crewe, Farndon, Chester.

Remembered with Honour
Bellicourt British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Researched and written

by

Mike Royden

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Jenny Corless (great-neice of Lillian Brown) for sharing her family history research.
Beryl Plent and Ron Brown of Gateacre Historic Society for sharing information on the Gateacre link.

www.roydenhistory.co.uk