

Museum of the Manchester Regiment

Research Guidance Notes

Edition 20

Although Museum staff are not able to undertake family history research on behalf of individuals we hope that you will find these guidance notes of use to you during the course of your research into the Manchester Regiment.

Brief History of the Manchester Regiment:

The 63rd Regiment of Foot was raised in 1756 as the 2nd Battalion of the 8th Regiment of Foot (later the King's Liverpool Regiment). In 1758 it was re-designated the 63rd Regiment of Foot, later acquiring the title (West Suffolk). The 96th Regiment was raised and disbanded several times prior to it being re-raised in Manchester in 1824. These two Regiments amalgamated in 1881 to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Manchester Regiment. In 1958 the Manchester Regiment amalgamated with the King's Liverpool Regiment to form The King's Regiment. On July 1st 2006 the King's Regiment amalgamated with the Queen's Lancashire Regiment and the King's Own Royal Border Regiment to form the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Border). For more information on the Regiment today please go to: www.army.mod.uk/

The Museum of the Manchester Regiment:

The Museum is located in the Town Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, OL6-6DL. Tel: 0161 343 2878. It is open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm. Admission is FREE. Please visit our website at: www.tameside.gov.uk/museumsgalleries/mom.

Official Service Records:

1. Surviving 'Other Ranks' service records for the period 1760-1913 (WO97 series) are held at The National Archives (TNA). These records are being digitised and released through www.findmypast.com.

2. For the service record of a soldier serving during the period 1914 and 1920 and Officers serving during the period 1914 up to and including 30 March 1922 please contact:

The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Tel: 0208 392 5200. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/. TNA provides access to an on-line catalogue of materials, various research guides and lists of independent researchers. TNA also offers a research service. All surviving First World War 'Other Ranks' service records are also being digitised by www.ancestry.co.uk.

Access to Ancestry is FREE in Tameside Local Studies & Archives Centre

3. For the service record of a soldier serving in or after 1921 and Officers serving on or after 31 March 1922 please contact:

The Army Personnel Centre, Historical Disclosures, Mail Point 555, Kentigern House, 65 Brown Street, Glasgow, G2 8EX. E-mail: disc4@apc.army.mod.uk. Tel: 0845 600 9663.

Service records are free to the serviceman in question and their widow but there is a charge of £30 for enquires from other family members and you will be required to fill in a *Certificate of Kinship*. If you are seeking your own service record please amend the address above to: Army Personnel Centre, Disclosures 2, Mail Point 515 followed by the address above. The APC can also provide access to surviving Home Guard Service Records from the Second World War. These records contain very little information and the aforementioned charge applies. The application form(s) can be downloaded from the *Veterans Agency* website at: www.veterans-uk.info/service_records/army.html

Medal Entitlements:

1. Rolls for awards before 1924 are held by the National Archives. The most comprehensive list of soldiers who served overseas during the First World War is the Medal Index Cards (MiC). The MiC's can be downloaded from the National Archives website at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/medals.asp>. MiC's can also be downloaded from www.ancestry.co.uk. On the latter website both sides of the MiC's have been filmed and are reproduced in colour.

2. For medal entitlement after 1924, apply to:

MOD Medals Office, S.P.V.A., Building 250, Innsworth Station, Gloucester, GL3-1HW, Tel: 01452 712612. Please contact the office directly for their latest guidelines on applying for un-issued medals and replacement medals.

Details of awards for gallantry during the twentieth century can be found on line at www.london-gazette.co.uk

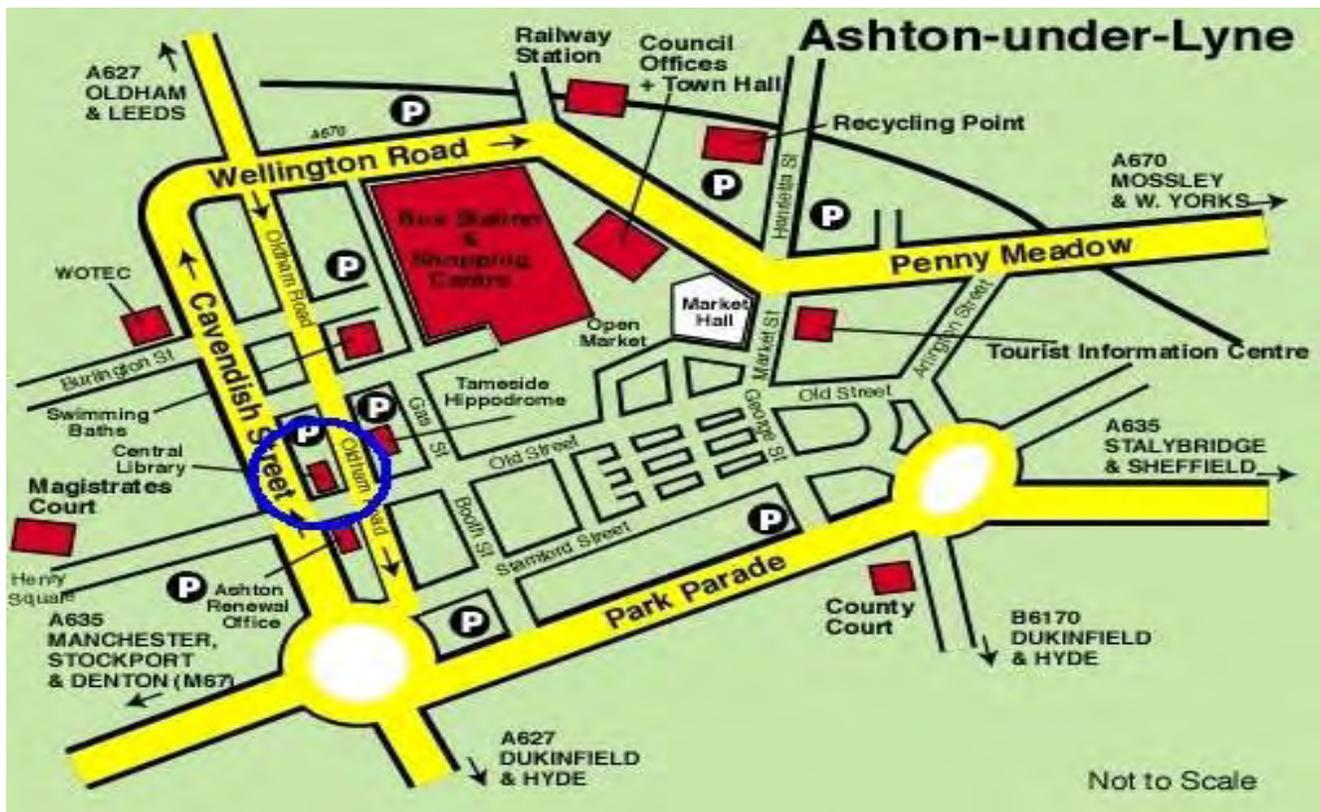
Soldiers Killed during the First or Second World Wars:

For grave location and information on unit and date of death please contact:

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7DX. Tel: 01628 634221. A searchable database is available at: <http://www.cwgc.org>

Manchester Regiment Archive:

The Manchester Regiment Archive is located within Tameside Local Studies and Archives Centre, Tameside Central Library, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, OL6 7SG, United Kingdom. Tel: +44 (0) 161 342 4242. Email: localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk. Most of the catalogue is available to view on-line at <http://localstudies.tameside.gov.uk/calmview/>. The Archive Centre is open Tuesday 9am-8pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9am-5pm and Saturday 10am-3pm. It is closed Monday and Friday.



Links (The following are some useful websites):

www.1914-1918.net/ The Story of the British Army of 1914 – 1918, also known as the Long Long Trail. This is a very useful site to gain a greater understanding of the ordinary experiences of a *Tommy*. For example the *Casualty Evacuation Chain* is explained and there is a searchable database of WWI PoW's.

www.armymuseums.org.uk Army Museums Ogilby Trust. This site provides contact details for each Regimental and Corps Museum in the UK along with a searchable database of Regimental publications relating to each of those units as well as the facilities that each museum offers.

www.army.mod.uk/ The British Army site. This is useful to discover the activities of the British army today and planned amalgamations for the future.

www.icrc.org International Committee of the Red Cross. (Info resources = ICRC information services = The ICRC Archives = Form for requesting information on a Prisoner of War). The ICRC provides an on-line search facility to discover if records pertaining to a PoW are held by the organisation for which there may be a charge.

www.cofepow.org.uk Children of Far East Prisoners of War is a group dedicated to the perpetuation of the memory of the men who experienced captivity in the hands of the Japanese during WWII.

www.a2a.org.uk This website contains a searchable database of archive catalogues created by various museums, libraries and archives in the UK including Regimental and Corps Archives.

www.oldoppos.co.uk This site is useful for anyone attempting to trace a member of the armed forces whom they have lost contact with since World War Two.

www.omrs.org.uk Orders and medal research site. This site is useful for general information regarding orders and medals.

www.victoriacross.org.uk This is a very useful site for information regarding the evolution of the Victoria Cross Medal, worldwide.

www.themanchesters.org This is a very useful website for those researching the history of the Regiment. It provides access to many useful resources; medal rolls and battalion war diaries, through the sites forum.

www.forrestdale.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/index.html This is the website of an independent researcher however the site contains some excellent information particularly a list of official reasons why men were discharged under Kings Regulations during WWI, references which appear a lot on the MiC's

www.britishmedalforum.com. This is an excellent website for any queries regarding medals of any type or period. It also has links to sites where you can try and search for missing medals from your group(s), search for Silver War Badges and Next-of-Kin Memorial Plaques (WWI)

www.forcesmemorial.org.uk/roll-of-honour.asp. The Roll of Honour provides information relating to members of the Armed Forces who have died in service since the end of the Second World War.

Other Information:

For Cap Badges and Replacement medals/mounting services please try the local business directory or the Internet. An alternative source for replica medals, ribbons, miniatures, mounting service and other items is Combined Services, 46 Lowerhill Gate, STOCKPORT, SK1-1JE (0161 477 2749) www.militaryitems.co.uk. This is a suggestion only. The Museum does not endorse any company specifically.