

# Deaths from Spanish Flu

1918 - 1919



## **March 1<sup>st</sup> 1919 - Sudden End To A Promising Career**

We regret to record the death of well known Bacup soldier in the person of Sergt Jack Lord, only son of Mr and Mrs J. W. Lord, formerly of Hannah Street, Bacup and now of Handsworth Road, Blackpool. Deceased was the grandson of the late Councillor John Lord, bandmaster of the famous Bacup Old Band. And his father was for a period of years an employee at the Bacup Times office, and ultimately connected with the game of cricket both as a player for the Bacup Cricket Club and a Lancashire League Umpire. A considerable number of relatives reside in the town, the family of Lord being best known locally. The death of Sergt Lord was sudden and unexpected. He was over in Bacup on leave, only three weeks ago and was cheerful and bright. During his furlough at Bacup and Blackpool he contracted a cold and was unfit to re-join his unit, but under the special re-organisation following demobilisation whereby he was drafted to a new unit, he felt it his duty to report. He was duly transported to Silkstone Camp, Yorkshire. He was admitted to the Beckett Military Hospital suffering from acute pneumonia.

From the first his condition was such as to cause much anxiety, and his parents were acquainted with the gravity of his illness. They promptly visited the hospital but despite all that could be done for him Sergt Lord, passed away in the presence of his parents at 12-10 on Monday morning. The news of his untimely death caused deep regret amongst a host of acquaintances in Bacup and much sympathy is expressed to the bereaved parents. The flag at

the Liberal club was hoisted at half mast as a token of respect. Sergt Lord who was only 22 years of age and a fine upstanding young man over 6ft in height, was formerly employed as a moulder at Messrs Hardmans Rockliffe Foundry. He enlisted in the later months of 1914 for a period of 12 years and was drafted to France with the Royal Horse Artillery in the following April. His funeral took place at the Bacup Cemetery the body having been conveyed from Barnsley to the Waterloo Hotel, the residence of his aunt.

### **March 1<sup>st</sup> 1919 - Stacksteads Soldier Succumbs to Pneumonia**



**Private James Coupe**

We much regret to record the death of Private James Coupe, 350,261 Motor Transport, Army Service Corps, fourth son of Councillor and Mrs B Coupe, 7a Chapel Street Stacksteads, which took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst, in hospital in Longuenesse France, from pneumonia, following an attack of influenza. The parents received word on Monday from the War Office, that their son was dangerously ill and that he was in hospital in France suffering from pneumonia, but that he could be seen. On Tuesday they received a telegram informing them that he had died. A communication was also received from the Rev. A. C. Lawson, dated February 15 from the 4<sup>th</sup> Stationary Hospital France, stating that he had been asked to write to their son who was admitted to the hospital suffering from influenza on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Pte Coupe was employed as a slipper hands at Messrs J. and J. Mcleries New Hey Mill when he joined the Forces on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1915,. He was away a month when he was discharged. He was called up in December 1917 and after a short period of training preceded to France. He was 22 years of age on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1919, and is survived by his parents and six sisters, and four brothers, three of them are serving with the colours. He was connected with Stacksteads Wesleyans.

## **March 1<sup>st</sup> 1919 – Returned Home To Die**

### **Pioneer W. Ratcliffe Stacksteads**

Still another Stacksteads soldier is added to the toll of the war in the person of Pioneer William Ratcliffe, aged 27 of the Royal Engineers, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Abraham Ratcliffe, 8 Bankfeild Street, Stacksteads, whose death occurred at this address on Monday night.

Pioneer Ratcliffe, commenced his civil career as a gardener at Stacksteads, and later took up an appointment as a gardener in Anglesey. He joined up in 1914, and after 19 months service was discharged. For 12 months he remained out of the army and obtained a position at Ripon. He was again called up and served with the colours for another 19 months, when he was demobilised. He came home on the 7<sup>th</sup> ins, when he was in ill-health, and it was thought that he was suffering from Bronchitis, but the doctor said it was Spanish Flu. He took to his bed, and pneumonia developed, he died as stated. He was a single man of Stacksteads, being on the roll of honour at Tunstead Church, Altogether he had been away from Stacksteads about eleven years. His father is employed at Atherton Holme Mill, and the deceased as one brother, who is still serving with the colours. The internment of the remains takes place at .Bacup Cemetery today.