

BANNISTER, FRED 12005 Private 19th Battalion 21st Brigade 30th Division

THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT

Born Farington Enlisted not known Living Leyland

Killed in Action France / Flanders 1 July 1916

Ref: 'Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919', Part 59.

Chorley Guardian and Leyland Hundred Advertiser Sat. 21st July 1917

Official information has now been received by Mrs Bannister, Turpin Green Lane, Leyland of the death in action on July 1st in France of her husband Pte Fred Bannister of the Manchester Regiment. He enlisted in September 1914 and had been in France for two years. He was 35 years of age and formerly worked at the Leyland and Birmingham Rubber Works (his photo appears in the 'Chorley Guardian' of 28th July 1917).

From the 'Guardian' report above, one would assume that Pte Bannister's date of death was July 1st, 1917, but 'Soldiers Died' clearly gives the date as 1 July 1916 (see next item).

Preston Guardian Saturday 21st July 1917

In this report, similar in most respects to that of the Chorley Guardian, Fred Bannister's date of death is clearly given as 1st July 1916. Obviously, he had been reported missing in July 1916, but only confirmed as killed a year later. Also, his address is given as 2 Turpin Green.

Fred Bannister's name appears on the following local memorials:-

War Memorial, Church Road, Leyland
Mural Plaque in St. Andrew's, Leyland

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

With no known grave Fred Bannister's name is on the:-

THIÈPVAL MEMORIAL, SOMME, FRANCE

Fred Bannister is commemorated on Pier 13 Face A or Pier 14 Face C.

No next-of-kin information.

The Thièpvál Memorial is located a little south of the village of Thièpvál which is 6.5 km north-east of Albert. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944), it is considered one of the finest buildings of his distinguished architectural career. This massive structure, standing 150 feet high, dominates the old battlefield and is a fitting tribute to the 72,085 men –

“ THE MISSING OF THE SOMME ”

Continued

Battle of the Somme' - A Topographical History - by Gerald Gliddon, 1987.

Montauban – 1st July 1916: The 19th Manchesters and the 18th King's Liverpools were in the opening attack towards Glatz Redoubt with the 2nd Green Howards in support. They reached their first objective by 8.35 am but suffered from machine gun fire. The capture of the Dublin Trench-Glatz Redoubt-Train Alley Line paved the way for the advance of the 90th Brigade through the 21st Brigade's lines.

This, presumably, is where Fred Banister lost his life.

Note:-The 19th Manchesters were known as the 4th (City of Manchester) Battalion; also, as the '4th Manchester Pals'.

Bannister, Fred.

W.E. Waring 2003