

W Croghan
Remembered with Honour
Ashton-Under-Lyne and Dukinfield Joint Cemetery
In Memory of
Private
19408, 26th Bn., Royal Fusiliers who died on 01 October 1916

CROGHAN, WILLIAM: Private, 25th (Bankers') Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London). Son of ex-Supt. Leonard Croghan of Lakes Villa, who led Gorse Hall Murder inquiry. Died 1 October 1916 aged 26, in Princess Christian British Red Cross (Military) Hospital, Edgefield Green, Surrey. In machine gun section with brother Alphonsus. Worked at Manchester, Liverpool & District Bank. Member of Dukinfield Cycling Club. Buried at Dukinfield.

From Mike Pavasovic's book "Men of Dukinfield"

The Bankers Battalion formed part of the 41st Division in 1914-1918

The history of 41st Division



This Division was formed at Aldershot in September 1915. The majority of the units that comprised the Division were originally locally raised ones, primarily from the south of England. The Division was inspected by King George V and Field Marshal Lord French on 26 April 1916.

The Division moved to France between 1 and 6 May 1916 and by 8 May had concentrated between Hazebrouck and Bailleul. The 41st Division then remained on the Western Front until October 1917 and took part in the following engagements:

1916

The Battle of Flers-Courcelette*

The Battle of the Transloy Ridges*

* the battles marked * are phases of the Battles of the Somme 1916

The 26th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers formed part of the 41st Division engaged in the 1916 Battle for the Somme.

26th (Service) Battalion (Bankers)

Formed in London on 17 July 1915 by the Lord Mayor and City of London, composed in the main of former bank clerks and accountants.

November 1915: came under command of 124th Brigade, 41st Division.

Landed in France on 4 May 1916.

Moved with the Division to Italy in November 1917 but returned to France March 1918.

Background

From his Obituary in the Reporter the only extra information I could glean was that both brothers had been injured by the same shell.



In 1911 William is living at home at 29 Brunswick Street, Dukinfield His father is Luke Joseph Croghan aged 60, Superintendent of Police born at Kilbride, Roscommon, Ireland. His mother Mary was born at Carigtwohill, County Cork. They had been married for 31 years and had had five children all of whom had survived to adulthood.

William's Sister Mary Lilian aged 23 (born Macclesfield) is an Infant Schoolmistress working for Dukinfield Town Council, William aged 20, born Birkenhead, is a Bank clerk working for the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank. His brother Alphonsus Marie, aged 16, born Birkenhead was also a bank clerk working for Parrs Bank.

In 1901 the family are living at the police station at Edleston road in Crewe where William's father is the Inspector of Police.

In 1891 the family are living at County hall in Birkenhead where William's father is the police sergeant. William is only nine months old and there are two elder brothers, Joseph and Thomas born at Macclesfield.

In 1881 the family are living at Macclesfield where Luke is a clerk and sergeant of police.

William left a Will in 1917:

CROGHAN William of Lakes Villa Dukinfield **Cheshire** private in the 26th battalion Royal Fusiliers died 1 October 1916 at Princess Christian's Military Hospital Englefield Green near Egham Surrey Administration (with Will) **Chester** 23 February to Luke Joseph Croghan retired superintendent of police. Effects £320 12s. 6d.

His Brother Alphonsus didn't die until 1956 and he also left a Will:

CROGHAN Alphonsus Marie of 117 Ravenscar-crescent Woodhouse-Park Wythenshawe **Manchester** 22 died 20 October 1956 at 14 Heaton Moor-road Stockport **Cheshire** Administration (with Will) **Manchester** 26 November to Maurice Joseph Anthony Croghan cotton finishing assistant manager. Effects £2167 4s. 4d.

He is also commemorated on the St Mary's RC, Dukinfield memorial:

SWEET JESUS HAVE MERCY ON THE
SOULS OF THE MEN OF
St MARY'S, DUKINFELD,
WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

"GREATER LOVE THAN THIS NO MAN HATH,
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS
FRIENDS."

THE BLOOD OF THE HEROES IS THE SEED OF FREEDOM
"REST IN PEACE."