

Private John Naylor©

Regimental number: 12571

7th (Service) Battalion, Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment

born: 9 May 1884--died: 20 August 1916

Private John Naylor, a coal miner, was one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the First World War.¹

John was born on 9 May 1884² in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, where both his father, Thomas Naylor, (1858–1905)³ and his mother, Nancy (née Hope) Naylor, (1853–1893)⁴ were born. Thomas and Nancy married on 7 January 1884 at St. Thomas' Church, Ashton-in-Makerfield. Thomas was working as a carter and living with his parents at 10 Mill Lane.⁵ Nancy did not list an occupation at the time of her marriage, although the 1881 England Census recorded that she was a card-room hand in a cotton mill.⁶

Thomas and Nancy settled in Ashton-in-Makerfield, where their five children were born. John was the eldest, followed by Peter (1886–1886),⁷ Thomas (1887–1933),⁸ Peter (1889–1961),⁹ and finally James (1892–?).¹⁰ Life was not easy for the couple. Their second child Peter, who was named after Thomas's father, died at nine months in 1886.¹¹ Thomas's father died the following year.¹² By 1891, Thomas was working as a collier and he and his family were living at 6 Mill Lane. John was attending school. Thomas's widowed mother, Elizabeth Naylor, his sister Ann and other family members were living next door at 10 Mill Lane.¹³ In 1893, one year after giving birth to James, Nancy died.¹⁴

By 1901, Thomas with his four children had moved to 23 Wigan Road. He was working as a coal miner. Both 16-year-old John and 14-year-old Thomas had followed him into the mines; Peter and James most likely attended school. Thomas's mother, sister Ann, and extended family were living with them.¹⁵ Elizabeth died that year¹⁶ and Thomas four years later in December 1905.¹⁷

Six years later, John and his brothers Thomas, Peter and James, all coal miners, were living with their aunt, Ann Naylor, in a five-room house at 46 York Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield. Also residing with them was a cousin, Ellen Naylor, and her eight-year-old son, Herbert Howard Naylor. Ellen assisted Ann with the housekeeping.¹⁸ In December 1912, John's brother Thomas married Alice Croft at Holy Trinity Church, Ashton-in-Makerfield. Caroline Green, who would later marry John,¹⁹ was a witness.²⁰

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, John was living at 303 Bryn Place, Bryn, Ashton-in-Makerfield, and working at the Smethurst Pit.²¹ Like many others at the time he was caught up in the patriotic fervour that swept the country. He enlisted in the 7th (Service) Battalion, Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment on 4 September 1914, at the recruiting office in Wigan, Lancashire. He was 30 years old, with blue eyes, brown hair, a fresh complexion, standing 168 cm tall and weighing 71 kg. He passed the medical examination, although he had dental problems and multiple scars on his back, one on his right forearm and a scar on the left side of his head.²²

The Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 40th (the 2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot and the 82nd Regiment of Foot (Prince of Wales's Volunteers). The regimental depot was at the Peninsular Barracks, Warrington,

Lancashire. During the First World War, it expanded to 21 battalions. The 7th (Service) Battalion, Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment (generally referred to as the 7th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment) was one of these new battalions, raised in September 1914 at Warrington.²³



Private John Naylor

*Wigan Examiner, 9 September 1916,
Wigan and Leigh Archives Online*

During the following 10 months, John was stationed at Perham Down, Andover, Hampshire; Clevedon, Somerset; and then at the Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth, Wiltshire. The preliminary training was rudimentary. The battalion did not have adequate equipment, food or clothing for the recruits. They slept on straw paillasses in tents during very inclement weather. By March 1915, the battalion was finally fully uniformed and equipped.²⁴ In early April, John was granted leave. On 3 April, he married Caroline Green (1885–1970),²⁵ a cotton spinner, who lived in Ashton-in-Makerfield with her parents and her young son William (1906–?).²⁶ After the wedding, John was nine hours late returning to Tidworth and was docked eight days pay.²⁷

At Tidworth, the recruits continued to hone their skills in musketry, bayonet fighting, and bomb throwing and engaged in mock battles with other battalions. On 17 July 1915, the battalion's 28 officers and 724 other ranks (ORs), which included Private John Naylor, travelled by train to Folkestone Harbour to board the SS *Onward*. The ship docked at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, at 1:25 a.m. on 18 July 1915. There, the 7th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment, of the 56th Infantry Brigade, 19th (Western) Division, joined the British Expeditionary Force.²⁸

The next day, the battalion began the 70-km march inland to Wallon-Cappel, situated between Saint-Omer and Hazebrouck, France, arriving on 23 July. The men, marching over uneven terrain at night, carrying their equipment and wearing new boots, had problems.²⁹ Later, the battalion relocated to other sites in the area. From 12 to 20 August, it was billeted at Vieille-Chapelle, where it was attached to the Ferozepore Brigade, Lahore Division, Indian Corps, for trench warfare training. On 13 September, the battalion moved to Locon, about 5 km from Vieille-Chapelle, where it manned frontline trenches. Because of the rain and mud, the men found it extremely difficult to repair and reconstruct these trenches.³⁰

From September 1915 to April 1916, the battalion alternated between frontline trenches, reserve trenches and reserve billets in the Festubert–Givenchy front, France.³¹ John experienced day-to-day shelling, sniper fire, endless noise, horrid stench, and skirmishes, followed by rest periods behind the lines. There was little resting time. When not in the trenches, the men were assigned to nightly work groups. Danger was always imminent.

There were some better times. On 25 December 1915, the battalion was in billets at Vieille-Chapelle, where the men were treated to Christmas dinner with a surplus of plum puddings. On 4 March 1916, while stationed at La Croix Barbet, France, they all had baths and a change of clothing. John and 99 other men were granted seven days leave on 22 March.³²

On 12 April 1916, the battalion moved to Linghem, 19 km northwest of Béthune, and by 20 May it was in trenches northwest of Albert, France. Later, it repositioned to other locations in the area. On

15 June, it was camped at Molliens-au-Bois, about 25 km from Albert, when it received orders to march to Baizieux and then to Hénencourt in preparation for the Somme offensive. On 30 June, Major General Tom Bridges, commanding the 19th (Western) Division, reminded the men that they were fighting for the ideal of freedom and the honour of England against “a treacherous and detestable enemy whose greed of power brought about this war.”³³

By 1 a.m. on 1 July 1916, the 7th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment, was in its assigned position in the intermediate line northwest of Albert, ready to engage the enemy at “zero hour” in the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July 1916 (which was the first of 12 battles covering the period 1 July to 18 November 1916 that became known as the Battle of the Somme).³⁴ At 6:21 a.m. the first shell from a British field gun streaked over the enemy line. At 7:28 a.m. the 179th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, detonated the Lochnagar mine under the German army’s trenches just south of La Boisselle. It was a massive explosion creating a huge crater. However, enemy intelligence had discovered the plan and the damage to the enemy’s forces was minimized.³⁵

At 7:30 a.m. the battalion moved to its next assigned position, the Tara–Usna line, crossing open country without too much enemy attention. There the battalion waited with no accurate information regarding the progress of the attack or the soldiers’ next task. From this position, the men could see the roofs of Albert and “the gleaming figure of the Virgin Mother brooding over the torn and twisted life below.”³⁶ At 3 p.m. the battalion received orders to move through the trenches toward Ovillers-la-Boisselle. This proved difficult as the trenches were congested with wounded men and other units. At 8:15 p.m. the battalion was ordered to return to the Tara–Usna line. Lieutenant Colonel C.R.P. Winsor, commanding the 7th Battalion, recorded in the battalion’s war diary that his men were exhausted by this whole movement, which had been executed through crowded trenches, with constant halts, and had no achievable objective.³⁷

On 3 July, the 57th Infantry Brigade, which was attacking La Boisselle, requested assistance from the 56th Infantry Brigade. The 7th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment, was deployed. Lieutenant Colonel Winsor felt that too many men were used in the initial attack and recommended fewer be assigned. He was overruled and even more were assigned, which “resulted in congestion and confusion and no chance of getting messages or anything passed along.”³⁸ The battalion was successful in clearing the enemy from the northern portion of the village. On 6 July, Brigadier General C.C. Onslow, commanding the 57th Infantry Brigade, expressed his gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Winsor, and the men of the battalion, who came to the 57th Infantry Brigade’s aid at “a critical time and who not only helped to maintain the ground already gained but added largely to it by an attack carried out with the greatest determination.”³⁹

During the period 1 to 11 July, the 7th Battalion recorded 6 officers and 38 ORs killed, 12 officers and 169 ORs wounded and 1 officer and 17 ORs missing.⁴⁰ In a “Special Order of the Day” of 11 July, Brigadier General F.G.M. Rowley, commanding the 56th Infantry Brigade, praised “the courage and high endeavour shown by all ranks” and though he deeply deplored the casualties sustained, he felt that “the losses were not excessive considering the desperate nature of the fighting.”⁴¹

The battalion saw more action in July: fighting the enemy at Mametz Wood (19 July), Bazentin-le-Petit (21 July), Switch Line (23 July), Mametz Wood (24 July), Bazentin-le-Petit (27 July) and Franvillers (31 July).⁴² During this time, the battalion recorded 5 officers and 10 ORs killed, 11 officers and 176 ORs wounded and 1 officer and 65 ORs missing.⁴³ In one month, the battalion lost 68% of its fighting force.

At the beginning of August, the 7th Battalion withdrew from the Somme battlefields and moved to the Spanbroekmolen–Wijtschate sector, southeast of Ypres, near Kemmel, Belgium, taking up a defensive position in the centre line. While there, the battalion received reinforcements. The men repaired the trenches, made them higher, built new dugouts and rebuilt the parapets. Besides repairing the defences, patrols were constantly out examining the enemy's wire and trenches.⁴⁴

After a six-day rest period at Kemmel shelter, the battalion was back in the trenches from 14 to 20 August. On 19 August, Private John Naylor was critically injured, suffering severe wounds to his back and abdomen. He was admitted at 6:43 p.m. to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) at Bailleul, France. A casualty clearing station was a medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who could not be adequately treated were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.⁴⁵ John was unconscious when admitted and never regained consciousness. He died at 5 a.m. on 20 August 1916. A letter to Caroline from one of the nursing sisters assured her that although nothing could be done to save John's life, he was given every care and was not in any pain and that his body was "reverently prepared for burial" and placed in the chapel under a British Flag.⁴⁶ The chaplain conducted a service for him that afternoon and accompanied his body to the military cemetery. His death was recorded by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain.⁴⁷

Private John Naylor was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. F. 169).⁴⁸ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

John's wife Caroline applied for a pension and was granted one for herself and for 10-year-old William. On 7 February 1917, she received John's personal effects: letters, cards, scissors, pencil, a broken watch, two pipes, a periscope and photographs.⁴⁹ On 2 February 1917, she received his savings, £3 19s 4d, and on 14 November 1919, a war gratuity of £9.⁵⁰

Private John Naylor was posthumously awarded the 1914–15 Star (for service in a theatre of war against the central powers between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), and the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918).⁵¹ As next of kin, Caroline received a memorial scroll and memorial plaque.

The Naylor family's world continued without John. On 11 November 1920, **Caroline** was living at 42 Wigan Road when she married Samuel Hilton, a coal miner, at St. Thomas' Church, Ashton-in-Makerfield.⁵² In 1921, she was still at that address with her husband, a new daughter, Olive, and 14-year-old **William**, who was working for the Garswood Coal & Iron Company Limited, Colliery Proprietors.⁵³ That year John's brothers, **Peter** and **James**, were living with their aunt, Ann Naylor, and cousin, Herbert, at 9 Druid Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield. Both men were coal miners at the Bryn Hall Colliery.⁵⁴ John's brother **Thomas**, with wife Alice, infant son Thomas, and Alice's brother Edward Croft, immigrated to New Zealand on 2 October 1914.⁵⁵ Thomas found employment as a coal miner in Blackball, West Coast, South Island. Two more sons were born there: Stanley (1915) and Hubert (known as Herbert) (1918).⁵⁶ It was not an easy life for the family.⁵⁷

Private John Naylor's sacrifice was commemorated on the war memorial at Saint Thomas' Church, Warrington Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield. His name, with a brief biography, is also listed in the World

War One Memorial Roll located on the St Thomas' and St. Luke's website⁵⁸ and in the First and Second World War Records located on *Wigan and Leigh Archives Online*.⁵⁹

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¹ "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail: Researching soldiers of the British Army in the Great War 1914–1919* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 3 May 2023)

² "Wigan, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for John Naylor, Birth date: 9 May 1884, Baptism date: 15 June 1884, Baptism place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England, Father: Thomas Naylor, Mother: Nancy Naylor

³ "Wigan, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, Birth date: 14 March 1858, Baptism date: 30 May 1858, Baptism place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England, Father: Peter Naylor, Mother: Elizabeth Naylor; "Wigan, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1979," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, Birth year: abt 1860, Burial date: 23 December 1905, Burial place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England

⁴ "Wigan, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Nancy Hope, Birth date: 3 June 1855, Baptism date: 5 June 1885, Baptism place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England, Father: John Hope, Mother: Alice Hope; "Wigan, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1979," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Nancy Naylor, Birth year: abt 1855, Burial date: 30 September 1893, Burial place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England. Note: Nancy's father and family changed their last name to Merry. She was recorded as Nancy Merry in the 1881 England Census.

⁵ "England Marriages, 1538–1973," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NNN5-C7Q>: accessed 12 April 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, Marriage date: 7 January 1884, Marriage place: St. Thomas, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, England, Father: Peter Naylor, Spouse: Nancy Hope, FHL Film number: 1885661, Reference ID: p22 m.43; "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, Registration district: Wigan, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 3785, Folio: 66, Page: 35

⁶ "1881 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 3 March 2023), entry for Nancy Merry, Registration district: Wigan, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 9, Piece: 3785, Folio: 96, Page: 42

⁷ "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 May 2023), entry for Peter Naylor, GRO Reference: 1886, J Quarter in Wigan, Volume: 08C, Page: 155, Mother's maiden surname: Hope; "GRO Indexes, Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 May 2023), entry for Peter Naylor, GRO Reference: 1886, D Quarter in Wigan, Volume: 08C, Page: 93, Age: 0

⁸ "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 22 May 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, GRO Reference: 1887, D Quarter in Wigan, Volume: 08C, Page: 153, Mother's maiden surname: Hope; "New Zealand, Cemetery Records, 1800–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 August 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, Birth date: abt 1889, Death date: 21 January 1933, Cemetery: Blackball, Burial place: Westland, West Coast, Spouse: Alice Naylor

⁹ "Wigan, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1911," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Peter Naylor, Birth date: 20 December 1889, Baptism date: 29 January 1890, Baptism place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England, Father: Thomas Naylor, Mother: Nancy Naylor; "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index to Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 30 May 2023), entry for Peter Naylor, Death date: 6 Feb 1961, Death place: Lancashire, England, Probate date: 2 May 1961, Probate registry: Liverpool, England

¹⁰ "GRO Indexes, Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 May 2023), entry for

James Naylor, GRO Reference: 1892, J Quarter in Wigan, Volume: 08C, Page: 180, Mother's maiden surname: Hope

¹¹ "Wigan, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1979," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Peter Naylor, Birth year: 1885, Burial date: 27 December 1886, Burial place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England, Age: 9/12

¹² "Wigan, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1979," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Peter Naylor, Birth year: abt 1824, Burial date: 7 October 1887, Burial place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England

¹³ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 30 May 2023), entry for John Naylor, Registration district: Wigan, Sub-registration district: Ashton in Makerfield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 3068, Folio: 112, Page: 36

¹⁴ Wigan, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1979," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Nancy Naylor, op. cit.

¹⁵ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 5 December 2022), entry for Thomas Naylor, Registration district: Wigan, Sub-registration district: Ashton in Makerfield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 02, Household schedule number: 57, Piece: 3571, Folio: 45, Page: 12

¹⁶ "Wigan, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1979," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Elizabeth Naylor, Birth year: abt 1827, Burial date: 1 June 1901, Burial place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England

¹⁷ "Wigan, England, Church of England Burials, 1813–1979," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, Birth year: abt 1860, Burial date: 23 December 1905, Burial place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England

¹⁸ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 1 June 2023), entry for John Naylor, Registration district number: 458, Sub-registration district: Ashton in Makerfield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 03, Piece: 23090

¹⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 2 June 2023), entry for Caroline Green, Spouse surname: Naylor, Registration year: 1915, Registration quarter: Apr-May-Jun, Registration district: Wigan, Inferred county: Lancashire, Volume: 8c, Page 15

²⁰ "Wigan, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754–1926," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for Thomas Naylor, Birth year: abt 1887, Marriage date: 17 December 1912, Marriage place: Ashton, Holy Trinity, Lancashire, England, Father: Thomas Naylor (deceased), Spouse: Alice Croft

²¹ "John Naylor," *Wigan Examiner*, 9 September 1916, *Wigan and Leigh Archives Online* (<https://archives.wigan.gov.uk/archive/world-war-records/wigan-newspaper-extracts-1914-1918/186434-w1916f8p222.jpg?>: accessed 3 June 2023)

²² "UK, British Army World War 1 Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 2 June 2023), entry for John Naylor, Service number: 12571. **Note:** Information regarding John Naylor's military career came from this source.

²³ "South Lancashire Regiment," *Lancashire Infantry Museum* (<https://www.lancashireinfantrymuseum.org.uk/south-lancashire-regiment>: accessed 9 June 2023); "The 7th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment," *The Wartime Memories Project* (<https://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion.php?pid=7022>: accessed 7 June 2023)

²⁴ James Louis Garvin et al., *We Hope to Get Word Tomorrow: The Garvin Family Letters, 1914–1916* (London, England: Frontline Books, 2009), pp. 7–34 in *Google Books* (<https://books.google.ca>: accessed 14 September 2023)

²⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 7 June 2023), entry for Caroline Green, op. cit. **Note:** Date of marriage came from John's service records; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 June 2023), entry for Caroline Hilton, Birth date: 3 August 1885, Registration date: Apr 1970, Registration quarter: Apr-May-June, Registration district: Worksop, Inferred county: Nottinghamshire, Volume: 3c, Page: 1331; "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 1 June 2023), entry for Caroline Green,

Registration district number: 458, Sub-registration district: Ashton in Makerfield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 01, Piece: 23088

²⁶ “Wigan, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813–1911,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 May 2023), entry for William Green, Birth date: 1 August 1906, Baptism date: 9 September 1906, Baptism place: Ashton-in-Makerfield, St. Thomas, Lancashire, England, Mother: Caroline Green

²⁷ “UK, British Army World War 1 Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry*, entry for John Naylor

²⁸ “56 Infantry Brigade: 7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, War Diaries, 1915 July 1–1915 Sept 30,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14053992>: accessed 15 June 2023) Reference: WO-95-2081/1. **Note:** Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 7th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment’s movements during this time period comes from this source.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, entry for 23/24 July 1915

³⁰ *Ibid.*, entry for 30 September 1915

³¹ “56 Infantry Brigade: 7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, War Diaries, 1915 Dec 1–1915 Dec 31,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14053994>: accessed 15 June 2023) Reference: WO-95-2081/3; “56 Infantry Brigade: 7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, War Diaries, 1916 Jan 1–1916 Dec 31,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14053995>: accessed 15 June 2023), Reference: WO-95-2081/4-1, WO-95-2081/4-2 **Note:** Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 7th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment’s movements during this time period comes from this source.

³² “UK, British Army World War 1 Service Records, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry*, entry for John Naylor; “56 Infantry Brigade: 7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, War Diaries, 1916 Jan 1–1916 Dec 31,” *National Archives, Kew*, entry for 22 March 1916

³³ “56 Infantry Brigade: 7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, War Diaries, 1916 Jan 1–1916 July 31,” *National Archives, Kew*, entry after 30 June, Appendix XXVII

³⁴ Tony Ball, “The Northumberland Fusiliers and the Somme, 1916: A Case Study in Unit Deployment, Tactical Order and Casualties,” *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, Vol. 85, No. 344 (Winter 2007), p. 310, *JSTOR* (<https://www.jstor.org>: accessed 20 April 2023)

³⁵ *Lochnagar Creator Foundation* (<https://www.lochnagarcrater.org>: accessed 14 September 2023)

³⁶ “56 Infantry Brigade: 7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, War Diaries, 1916 Jan 1–1916 Dec 31,” *National Archives, Kew*, Reference: WO-95-2081/4-1, entry 1 July, 1916 at 9:15 a.m.

³⁷ *Ibid.* entry 1 July 1916 at 8:15 p.m.

³⁸ “56 Infantry Brigade: 7 Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, War Diaries, 1916 Jan 1–1916 Dec 31,” *National Archives, Kew*, Reference: WO-95-2081/4-2, entry after 31 July 1916, Appendix A, Précis of Fighting 3rd–9th July 1916, p. 3

³⁹ *Ibid.*, entry after 31 July 1916, Appendix XLVM, Special Order of the Day 6.7.16 by Brig. Gen C.C. Onslow

⁴⁰ “56 Infantry Brigade: Headquarters, War Diaries, 1915 Jan 1–1916 July 31,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14084745>: accessed 17 July 2023), Reference: WO 95/2075/2.1, WO 95/2075/2.2, entry for 3 July 1916 and 31 July 1916, Appendix Z10

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, Appendix Z11

⁴² “7th Battalion Prince of Wales’s Volunteers South Lancashire Regiment,” *Battle of the Somme Roll of Honour* (http://somme-roll-of-honour.com/Units/british/7th_South_Lancashire.htm: accessed 20 July 2023)

⁴³ “56 Infantry Brigade: Headquarters, War Diaries, 1915 Jan 1–1916 July 31,” *National Archives, Kew*, Appendix Z37 and Appendix Z42

⁴⁴ Everard Wyrall, *The Nineteenth Division : 1914–1918* (Uckfield, East Sussex: Naval & Military Press 2012), Chapter VIII: An Interlude Trench warfare: August, September, and October, 1916 in *Google Books* (<https://www.google.ca>: accessed 14 September 2023); “56 Infantry Brigade: Headquarters, War Diaries, 1916 Aug 1–1916 Dec 31,” *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14084746>: accessed 23 July 2023) Reference: WO 95/2075/3, attached after entry for 31 August 1916, Work Report for Week ending 16 August 1916

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- ⁴⁵ "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 2 July 2023)
- ⁴⁶ "John Naylor," *Wigan Examiner*, 9 September 1916, *Wigan and Leigh Archives Online* (<https://archives.wigan.gov.uk/archive/world-war-records/wigan-newspaper-extracts-1914-1918/186434-w1916f8p222jpg?>: accessed 3 June 2023);
- ⁴⁷ "Search Name Index," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 12 July 2023), entry for Naylor, J. Service number: 12571
- ⁴⁸ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/200882/j-naylor>: accessed 25 July 2023), entry for J. Naylor, Service number: 12571
- ⁴⁹ "UK, British Army World War 1 Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry*, entry for John Naylor. **Note:** Caroline was asked to provide documentation that William was John's son. Although this document was not in his file, there was a note from Caroline saying that this should be considered proof. When she remarried in 1920, she no longer was eligible for a pension.
- ⁵⁰ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 July 2023), entry for John Naylor, Regimental number: 12571
- ⁵¹ "British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 July 2023), entry for John Naylor, Regimental number: 12571; "UK, British Army World War 1 Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry*, entry for John Naylor
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