

11 November 2018



They died in vain

The notorious Battle of the Somme in 1916 took the lives of no fewer than eight Malpas men - and tragically contributed little to ending the war.

The five month offensive began with huge losses on July 1. Among them was **Arthur Phillips**, aged 35, from Edge who had joined the King's

Liverpool Regiment.

The others to be lost included **James Gaughan** who died, aged 32, of his wounds on July 15.

Among the bravest of the brave

Joseph Groom joined the Army before the declaration of war and survived the Western Front, and service in German East Africa and West Africa.

But he died on holiday in Wales in April 1919 within hours of developing a virulent form of malaria contracted in Africa.

His bravery in August 1915 earned him the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry despite being wounded himself.

He had spent his childhood in Wigland and was only 23 when he died.

Both he and 18 year old **John Powell** of Hampton, who was killed in action on August 24, were serving with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

Four days later Malpas-born **John Richardson** (23), of the York and Lancaster Regiment, was killed in action.

And 25 year old **Alfred Walley**, a baker in Malpas, was killed in action with the Rifle Brigade on November 14, in the last week of the battle.