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MALPAS 100 YEARS ON LEST WE FORGET

What were they doing before?

As many as 17 of the 58 men on the Malpas War Memorial are known to have worked on the land or in related activities before they enlisted.

Among them were Malpas-born **Leonard Edge**, a 36 year old farm labourer, who was brought from France but died of his wounds in March 1916 in Sheffield, and cowman **Edgar Clutton** (20) of Cuddington who was killed in action in France in March 1917.

Head gardener **George Parker** died in Belgium of his wounds, aged 33, in April 1918 when his parents were living in Church Street and **Arthur Davies** worked on his father's farm at Edge Grange before being sent to France where, in July 1918, the 27 year old died in hospital from gas poisoning.

The men who enlisted in the Armed Forces but failed to return were experienced in a wide range of occupations.

They included 29 year old post office messenger **Frederick Bateman**, of Malpas and **Stephen Gibbons**, aged 40, a groom at The Beeches.

Each was killed in action in France, in May 1916 and March 1918 respectively.

Tailor **James Benyon** (34) of Malpas and 31 year old carpenter **John McMichael** from Malpas both died of their wounds in France, in May 1918, on successive days.

Three staff from the railway company, which operated the Malpas line, did not survive the war.

John Bailey, the station clerk, joined the Army Reserve and then, in October 1917, the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. The 25 year old received a fatal wound when serving in France just after Christmas two months later.

Leonard Wasse was a painter whose mother lived in High Street. He died of his wounds, aged 33, in France in August 1917.

John Jones (20) was the station porter before he enlisted but died of meningitis, in Barrow-in-Furness in May 1917, without seeing active service overseas.