

The Thorpe Story – My Best Scenario

Dave Bohl 15th June 2020

(All documents from Ancestry.com unless qualified)

This research project was inspired by a innocent post on the Great War Forum by fellow Merseysider, Richard Dalglish, alias “Daggers,” entitled *Pte William Thorpe, 8561, 1/King’s Own Royal Lancaster Regiment*.

Posted 11 April 2020

I have had 'A Foreign Field' by Ben Macintyre for several years but until going through the shelves for a good read, while libraries are closed, I found I had never read it.

It is a true story of a handful of British soldiers, separated from their various units in the German advances of 1914, who link up and are hidden by French villagers. The author clearly spent much time with the descendants and survivors of the villagers and was allowed access to local archives, but he does not allow his research to interrupt his narrative.

One of the soldiers is named as William Thorpe, from Liverpool, who had joined the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in 1910 as a regular soldier and was 36 years of age in late 1914. He had a wife and three young children back in Liverpool, but no other details appear in the book about where he lived or his former occupation.

After many months in hiding the four main characters of the book are revealed to the occupying Germans, and after brief 'trial' were executed by firing squad in May 1916. Their graves lie in the village churchyard at Le Catelet, just north of St Quentin in Picardy.

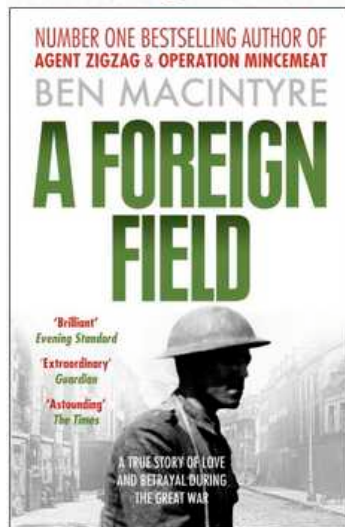
I have not been able to trace William Thorpe's army records, as so many were lost in a WW2 bombing, but found that he was entitled to the 1914 Star, Victory and British War Medals, which were probably sent to his widow. The Star card shows his number as 8561. 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' has 'KIA', killed in action, against his name and has his number as '8501'. His entry on the Vic/BMW Medal Roll has '85#1', where the # is an obscure, possible deleted or corrected digit. The CWGC's Debt of Honour Register entry includes no family information. I have been told that the Soldiers' Effects dated 20 Sept 1919 shows they were sent to William's brother Alfred J. Thorpe, and not to his wife or widow. Would this give an address?

Without more detail of his wife's name or an address I have failed to find a census record for the family, which might be under one of the Liverpool districts: Kirkdale, Everton, Walton, West Derby, etc.

I would be very interested to know if more is known or can be found about this man.

Daggers

A Foreign Field



A wartime romance, survival saga and murder mystery set in rural France during the First World War, from the bestselling author of 'Operation Mincemeat' and 'Agent Zig-Zag'.

Four young British soldiers find themselves trapped behind enemy lines at the height of the fighting on the Western Front in August 1914. Unable to get back to their units, they shelter in the tiny French village of Villeret, where they are fed, clothed and protected by the villagers, including the local matriarch Madame Dessenne, the baker and his wife.

The self-styled leader of the band of fugitives, Private Robert Digby, falls in love with the 20-year-old daughter of one of his protectors, and in November 1915 she gives birth to a baby girl. The child is just six months old when someone betrays the men to the Germans. They are captured, tried as spies and summarily condemned to death.

Using the testimonies of the daughter, the villagers, detailed town hall records and, most movingly, the soldiers' last letters, Ben Macintyre reconstructs an extraordinary story of love, duplicity and shame - ultimately seeking to discover through decades of village rumour the answer to the question, 'Who betrayed Private Digby and his men?' In this new updated edition the mystery is finally solved.

[benmacintyre.com/blog/book/a-foreign-field]

The central focus is on this Liverpool census record of 1901 for an ALFRED THORPE b.1892

216	26 Selamhall	1		Katherine M. Schepel	do	2							
				Mary E Taylor	Head	Woman	44						do
				Alfred Brown	Son-in-law	M	25						Ireland
				Margaret E Brown	Daughter	Woman	21		Book Binder	Worker			Shawcross Salop.
				William Brown	Son		5						do
				Berbert Brown	do		4						do
				Arthur Brown	do		2						do
				Eric Brown	do		9 mts						do
				Mary Taylor	Daughter		25		School teacher				do
				Elizabeth Victor	Sister	Woman	29		Living on own means				Ireland
				John Thorpe	Wife	Woman	35		Book Binder	Worker			do
				Alfred Thorpe	do		9						do

Here is the baptism record for him, father John Thomas and mother Annie

No. 1041	Mary Anne							1892
1892	do Alfred	John Thomas	Thorpe	Amrose-Race	William	Chaplin	Minster	Rome
April 24	Joseph	Annie						March 31
No. 1012								1892
1892								Rome

The Liverpool census for 1891 reveals the earlier family picture with son John William

152	1	1	George Huxit	Head	M	23		General servant	do	x	Liverpool
			Margaret	do	Wife	20					do
153	3	1	Milly Meyer	Head	M	22		Housekeeper		x	Liverpool
			Louise	do	Daughter	16					do
			Mary	do	do	16		Charwoman		x	do
156	5	1	Elizabeth Robert	Head	M	27		Wks in Cotton Warehouse		x	do
157	7	1	John Hurvey	do	M	24		General Labourer		x	do
			Margaret	do	Wife	19					do
			Thomas	do	Son	12		Schoolar			do
158	9	1	John Thorpe	Head	M	25		Railway Porter		x	Ireland
			Annie	do	Wife	25					Liverpool
			John W	do	Son	3					do
			Emily M	do	Daughter	1					do
159	11	1	James Barron	Head	M	21					do

JW was baptised at the same time as his sister Emily Margaret

Name: John William Thorpe
 Age: 1
 Birth Date: 3 Mar 1888
 Baptism Date: 5 Jan 1890
 Baptism Place: Liverpool, St Martin in the Fields, Lancashire, England

born	18 90	John	John & Thorpe	William	Annie	William	Porter	Chaplin
March 3 rd	1890	John	William	Ann	Annie	William	Porter	Chaplin
1890	No. 1657							
born	18 90	Emily	John & Thorpe	Emily	Margaret	John	Porter	Chaplin
November 3 rd	1890	Emily	John & Thorpe	Emily	Margaret	John	Porter	Chaplin
1890	No. 1658							

Emily died in infancy in 1891, that's why she did not appear on the 1901 Liverpool census.

Deaths Jun 1891 Thorpe
 Emily Margaret 1 Liverpool

JW joins the Navy in 1906 aged 18, correct date of birth, after serving briefly in 1904

Name: John William Thorpe
 Gender: Male
 Birth Date: 3 Mar 1888
 Birth Place: Liverpool, Lancs
 First Service Date: 16 Feb 1904
 First Ship Served On: Emerald
 Last Service Date: Jun 1904
 Last Ship Served On: Emerald
 Service Number: 229990

229990

Name in full } *John William Thorpe* 229990
 Date of Birth } *3rd March 1888*
 Place of Birth } *Liverpool, Lancs.*
 Occupation } *Labourer.*

Date and Period of C. S. Engagements.	Age.	Height. Ft. in.	Hair.	Eyes.	Complexion.	Wounds, Scars, Marks, &c.
<i>3rd March 1906 - 12 yrs</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>5-1³/₄</i>	<i>Bro</i>	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Fresh</i>	

Ships, &c., served in.	List and No.	Rating.	Sub-ratings.			Badges.	Period of Service.		Character.	If Discharged, Whither, and for what Cause.
			Rating.	From	To		From	To		
<i>Emerald</i>	<i>1523167</i>	<i>Boys' 2d</i>					<i>16 Feb 04</i>	<i>12 June 04</i>	<i>A4</i>	<i>Disch'd</i>

HMS Emerald(1904) (7th)
 Training Ship

This the seventh ship to carry the name HMS Emerald was a training ship.



Originally HMS Black Prince the second British battleship to be ordered, built by Napier, of Greenock. Laid down 12-Oct-1859 launched 27-Feb-1861 and completed 12-Sep-1862, at a cost of £377,954.
 She served in the Channel Fleet from 1862 to 1866;
 Flagship at Queenstown 1866 - 1867;
 re-armed 1867 - 1868;
 guardship on the Clyde from 1868 to 1874;
 refit 1874 - 75;
 the Channel Fleet from 1875 to 1878;
 in Reserve at Devonport 1878 to 1896;
 training ship at Queenstown 1896 - 1910;
 1910 returned to Plymouth.

Renamed HMS Emerald(1904).

Sold in 1923 after sixty one years service. [britainsnavy.co.uk]

Mother Annie dies in 1899, so that explains her missing on the 1901 census, the anchor document.

7977G	<i>ANNE THORPE</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Westmoreland Place</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>1899</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Edw Roberts</i>
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This is the conjecture part, JW may have enlisted in Liverpool as just WILLIAM, perhaps to shade his R.N service. From Ancestry SDGW, slight typo on his number, it should be **8561**, and the KORL headquarters in Bank Road.

Name:	William Thorpe
Birth Place:	Liverpool
Death Date:	27 May 1916
Death Place:	France and Flanders
Enlistment Place:	Liverpool
Rank:	Private
Regiment:	King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment
Battalion:	1st Battalion
Regimental Number:	8501
Type of Casualty:	Killed in action
Theatre of War:	Western European Theatre

BANK ROAD, BOOTLE—W
Strand road

81 Peters James
83 Cummings Thomas engineer
85 Ross Alexander, cabinet maker
87 Little Mrs Madeline
89 Williamson Mrs. Mary
91 M'Kee John engineer
93 Owen Robert engineer
97 Wilson Cornelius
97 Brown William ironfounder
99 Craig George bank manager
2 Hands Benjamin ale & porter bottler
4 Sutcliffe Francis R. victualler
6 O'Brien Daniel
10 Power William, mariner
10 O'Connell Patrick
**10A 4th Volunteer Battalion (The King's
Liverpool Regiment) Depot** [Gores 1900]

Battalion structure from Wikipedia:-

After the Childers reforms took effect, the regiment contained the following battalions:

- 1st Battalion (Regular)
- 2nd Battalion (Regular)
- 3rd (The Duke of Lancaster's Own 1st Royal Lancashire Militia) Battalion (Militia) based in Lancaster, 1st Btn of former Militia
- 4th (The Duke of Lancaster's Own 1st Royal Lancashire Militia) Battalion (Militia) based in Lancaster, 2nd Btn of former Militia
- [5th] 1st Volunteer Battalion based in Ulverston, former 10th Lancashire Rifle Volunteer Corps

In 1908, the Volunteers and Militia were reorganised nationally, with the former becoming the Territorial Force and the latter the Special Reserve; the regiment now had one Reserve and two Territorial battalions.

According to the Lancashire Evening Post 14/7/1905 there were quite a few events at Knowsley Park, Liverpool.

KING'S OWN COLOURS
PRESENTED TO-DAY BY HIS MAJESTY.
BRILLIANT CEREMONY AT KNOWSLEY.
(From Our Reporter.)
KNOWSLEY, Tuesday.
In ideal weather, on the lawn in front of the house at Knowsley, a sheltered spot, the presentation of the colours to the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment took place to-day.
It was a pleasant coincidence that on the occasion of the visit of their Majesties to Knowsley the King had graciously consented to thus honour the regiment formerly commanded by the Earl of Derby, and there was great appreciation of his Majesty's kindness.
The fourth contingent, under the command of Colonel Kemmis, C.M.G., who are now in camp at Althar, arrived at Knowsley at an early hour, and were joined en route by Colonel North, C.B., and the staff of the 3rd Battalion. The colour party of the 4th included Colonel Kemmis, Major Evans, Major Higgin, Captain Barker, commanding the guard of honour, with Captain Davidson and Captain and Adjutant Stephen. The officers who were detailed off to receive the colours were:—Lieutenant H. T. Stokes, Lieutenant St. Linton, of the 3rd Battalion, and Lieutenant T. B. Lendon, and J. Morrell, of the 4th Battalion.

[British Newspaper Archive]

From GWF regarding the issue of regimental numbers:-

- 8489 joined on 9th January 1905
- 8556 joined on 17th March 1905
- 8847 joined on 9th March 1906

William's regimental number of **8561** can be dated quite accurately by Sgt Blackburn **8552** dated 10th Feb 1904.

Certificate of Service to Sergeant G Blackburn of the 4th Battalion, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.
 Accession Number: KO0130/01



NOTE: JW's navy record states he finished in June 1904 and it looks like somebody has written 'invalid' in the discharge column. If JW recovered from this he is still in the frame to be 8561 William.

The 1911 Census I think really seals the connection where William is one of 565 soldiers and family serving with the 1st Battalion of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment at Havelock Barracks Dilkusha in Lucknow India. Note he is single, aged 24.

Name:	William Thorpe
Event Type:	Census
Event Date:	1911
Event Place:	, Havelock Bks Dilkusha Lucknow India, Overseas Military,
County:	Overseas Military
Sub-District Number:	13
District Number:	641
Enumeration District:	7
Age:	24
Marital Status:	Single
Marital Status (Original):	SINGLE
Occupation:	SOLDIER
Institution:	1ST BN THE KINGS OWN REGIMENT
Birth Year (Estimated):	1887
Birthplace:	Bootle Liverpool

William's Medal Index Card, it states he was a Prisoner of War which is true but only for a few days.

4 Campaign: 1914

(A) Where decoration was earned.
(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)		
				MEDAL	ROLL	PAGE
(A) THORPE	R. Lanc. R.	PTE	8561	VICTORY	H 2 103/3	308
(B) W.M.	---	---	---	BRITISH	do	do
				14 STAR	H/2/3	142

Action taken: * Dec. P. of W

* blas/p2/p642

QUALIFYING DATE: 23. 8. 14

(6 34 46) W234-HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K604 [OVER.]

KORL diary explains the catastrophic retreat in which William gets trapped behind enemy lines 26th August 1914

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript. (Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
26-8-14 Comd HAUCOURT	Battalion was lost in position round HAUCOURT. One detachment in village - Right section about 300' along HAUCOURT-LIGNY road. Left section about 300 yards down HAUCOURT-ESNEZ Road. Enemy's shell fire blacked out from about 11 am till 3 pm when it was renewed with increased vigour. Advance on to hill due north was made about 4 pm to collect wounded - at about 6 pm brigade was ordered to retire to SEVIGNY. Left detachment received orders to retire through SEVIGNY to billets in LE GOUY & LE CATELET. Remainder of Battalion under Major Pades remained in village - with a party of 10. Brigade. About 9.30 pm an attack on village was made by Germans, who were finally driven out - at about 11 pm the party	Casualties 26-8-14 Comd Missing Capt Sparenberg - Other Rank Killed wounded & Missing 431.

(9 29 6) W332-1107 100,000 10/13 HWV Form C. 2119/18.

William evaded capture for 15 months but was tried as a spy and was executed in Le Catelet on 27th May 1916

Pension records with moneys to Bro' Alfred J.

Craig (Great War Forum) was a bit confused about this, his Royal Navy Service might be the reason for it.

866967

1893603 Thorpe William

18 Lancashire Fusiliers / 58 10 5

26.8.14 k.19

8561

5-19 / 58 10 5 58 10 5

20-9-19 Bro: Alfred J. 58 10 5

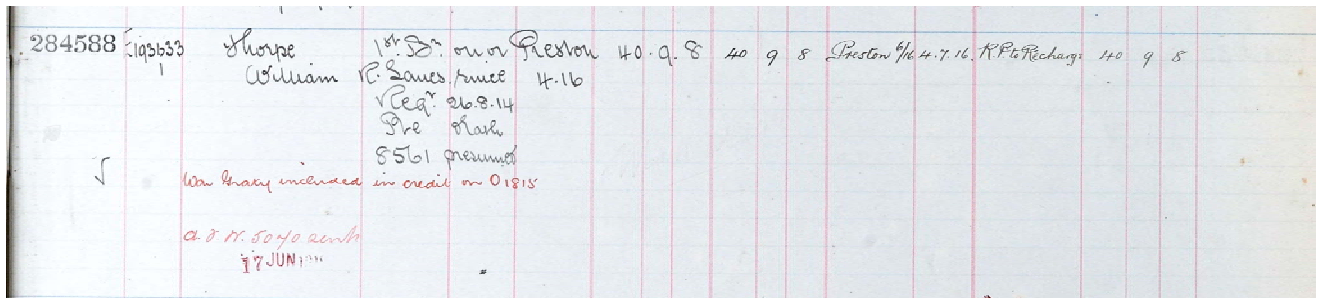
Recharge by RS Run II 6/19 58 10 5

Bro: Alfred J.

142/284588 1/7

Including War Gratuity £10

Mo + Aug



Caveats, Good Points and Bad Points to consider from what we have in Macintyre's Book

“One of the soldiers is named as Willie Thorpe, a short, stocky Liverpudlian who had joined the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in 1910 as a regular soldier on 5 pence a day and was 36 years of age in late 1914. He had three young children back in Liverpool (no wife mentioned until end of the book), obtained a 3rd class Certificate of Education and had never been outside his native land.”

Good

Life story and family in Liverpool
 Has a brother Alfred J
 His Navy record states he was 5 foot 1¾, so certainly “short” in stature
 No record of a death or 1939 register for JW dob 3/3/1888
 His dad's brother was called Willie

Bad

He was 26 not 36 in 1914
 Had never been out of the country, 1/KORL were in India by 1911

Conclusion

The researcher for Ben Macintyre's book “A Foreign Field” has probably hit on the 1911 census record for a William (b.1878 Toxteth) and Elizabeth Nancy Thorpe and their three children. The 1939 Register has them alive and kicking in Liverpool. The 1911 census for the 1/KORL in Lucknow, India has William, age 24, single and born in Bootle. The Battalion returned to England in December 1912 and were stationed in Dover so the chances of him having a wife and three children before going off to war in August 1914 are pretty slim. This is why Alfred J. was the benefactor of his War Gratuity and Pension.

I propose John William Thorpe as #8561 William Thorpe 1/KORL

**John William THORPE b. 3rd March 1888 Liverpool (Bootle). Died Le Catelet on 27th May 1916.
 Father John Thomas Thorpe b.1866 Ireland (possibly d.1937 Middleton, Lancs probate)
 Mother Harriet Annie Naylor b.1867 Liverpool d.1899 Liverpool
 Brother Alfred Joseph Thorpe b. 1892 Liverpool d.1960 Llanelli
 Sister Emily Margaret Thorpe b. 1889 Liverpool d. 1891**

ALFRED Joseph Thorpe (Brother)

The 1911 Census may have picked him up working on a farm in Llanelly
County/Island: Carmarthenshire. Wales
Street address: 70 Towyn Farm Pembrey Carmarthen
Marital status: Single
Occupation: Farm Labourer
Registration district: Llanelly

8	Richard Perry	servant	24	Single	farm labourer	140	"	Pomerset Bath	144
9	Edwin Underwood	servant	17	Single	"	"	"	Perry Chertsey	191
10	Wash Williams	servant	21	Single	"	"	"	Llanerfyl	258
11	Alfred Thorpe	servant	19	Single	"	"	"	"	107
12	William Lippel	servant	24	Single	Common farm	120	"	London	202

He marries Rose May Hinder in 1915 and has two children
Marriages Sep 1915 Thorpe, Alfred J Spouse Hinder Llanelly
Births Jun 1918
Thorpe Thomas J Hinder Llanelly

He has no obvious military service, and probably lived the rest of his life down there.

There is a 1939 Register for them in Llanelli as Alfred, Rosie and 2nd son Percival Walter

Thorpe Alfred J.	-	M	26 Mar. 02	M	General labourer at
This record is officially closed.					
Thorpe Rosie M.	-	F	1 Feb 99	M	Unpaid domestic duties
Thorpe Percival W.	-	M	4 March 26	S	at school

Deaths Dec 1960
THORPE Alfred J 68 Llanelly

I wonder if he ever knew the sad fate of his older brother ?

John Thomas Thorpe (Father)

Name: John Thomas Thorpe
Event Type: Birth
Event Date: 6 May 1865
Event Place: Abbeyleix, Queens, Ireland
Event Place (Original): Abbeyleix, Queens, Ireland
Gender: Male
Father's Name: John Thorpe
Mother's Name: Margaret Hayes

The father's family can be accurately traced back to Ireland via the 1901 census in which a family friend Elizabeth Tector aged 69 is at their address 126 Delamore St. in Kirkdale, Liverpool.

126 Delamore St			Mary A Taylor	Head	Widow	64			Ireland
			Alfred Brown	S-in-law	M	25	Book	Labourer	Warrington Salop
			Margaret E Brown	Daughter	Widow	81			do & Liverpool
			William Brown	Son		5			do
			Herbert Brown	do		4			do
			Arthur Brown	do		2			do
			Eric Brown	do		9 mths			do
			Mary Taylor	Daughter	S	25		School teacher	do
			Elizabeth Tector	Sister	Widow	69		Living on own	Ireland
			John Thorpe	Visitor	Son	35		Book	do
			Alfred Thorpe	do		9			do & Liverpool

She returned to Ireland and is picked up on their 1911 census

Residents of a house 7 in Ballindaggan (Ballindaggan, Wexford)

Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion
Thorpe	Margaret	69	Female	Head of Family	Church of Ireland
Thorpe	William	43	Male	Son	Church of Ireland
Thorpe	Isabella	27	Female	Daughter	Church of Ireland
Tector	Elizabeth	80	Female	Relative	Church of Ireland

The 1901 Ireland census refers to "Willie" Thorpe, a term sometimes used in subsequent books for 8561 Thorpe

Residents of a house 11 in Ballindaggan (Ballindaggan, Wexford)

Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion
Thorpe	Margaret	59	Female	Head of Family	Church of Ireland
Thorpe	Isabella	17	Female	Daughter	Church of Ireland
Thorpe	Willie	34	Male	Son	Church of Ireland

So father John Thomas Thorpe had a younger brother William(b. 1867), Isabella(b. 1884)
There was also another brother

NAME: Joseph George Thorpe
GENDER: Male
BIRTH DATE: 27/07/1875
BIRTH PLACE: Wexford, Ireland
FATHER: John Thorpe
MOTHER: Margaret Hayes

And a marriage record for their father who must have died pre-1901

Name: John Thorpe
Event Type: Marriage
Event Date: 17 Dec 1862
Event Place: Ireland
Event Place (Original): Templeshanbo, Wexford, Ireland
Gender: Male
Father's Name: John Thorpe
Spouse's Name: Margaret Hayes
Spouse's Gender: Female
Spouse's Father's Name: Thomas Hayes

ERNEST Thorpe (Possible Child 1)

Sifting through birth and marriages records the only chance of JW having three children is obviously out of wedlock.

We know 8561 William Thorpe was with 1/KORL in Lucknow, India on the 1911 Census (2nd April), if we look at the Children's Convalescent Home on Meols Drive, Hoylake all 167 patients and staff have "Military Disposition".



One of the Patients is:-

Patient **Ernest Thorpe** male 1910 Liverpool, Lancashire 1911 West Kirby, Cheshire, England, United Kingdom **OTHER: Military Disposition///CHILDREN'S CONVALESCENT HOME, MEOLS DRIVE**

7th Dec 5th 1909 No. 777	Ernest	Laura Laura	Thorpe	50 Employ SI	Portobello	Ernestby Curate	Corrections made by G.P.W. Illegitimate
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His Baptism states he was "Illegitimate". Looking at the 1939 Register on FMP, Ernest is with his mother Laura Thorpe household 45 Canterbury Street

First name	Last name(s)	Birth year
Laura Thorpe		16 th Apr 1889
Ernest Thorpe		5th Feb 1910 (his baptism on 3 rd Dec 1911 gives a dob of 5 th Feb 1909)

THORPE	Laura	- F	16 Apr 89	S	Leather Cutter (Super)
	Ernest	- M	5 Feb 10	S	General Labourer

Warehouse Porter

CANTERBURY ST. (3)
149 Islington

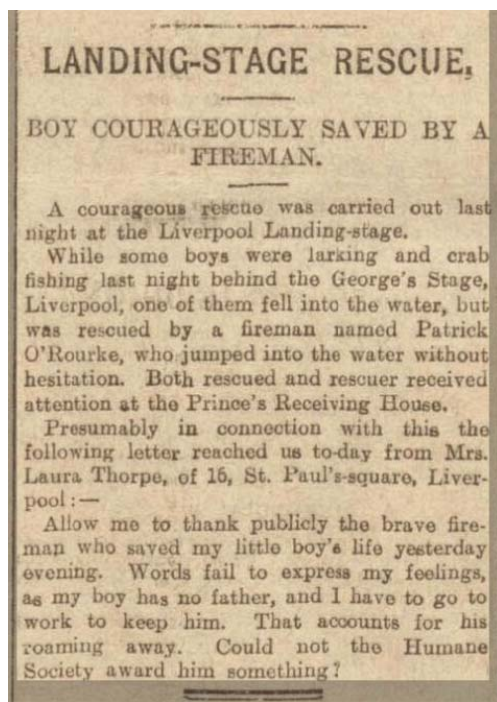
LEFT SIDE.

- 9 Kensington Loan Discount & Investment Co. Ltd.—Alfd. C. Malley managing director
- 11 Horrocks Mrs. Annie apartments
- 13 Cardownie Mrs
- 17 McCormack Matthew
- 19 Dougherty Isaac french polisher
- 21 Kerwan Mrs. Ellen
- 23 O'Rourke Dennis dock labourer
- 25 "Canterbury Arms" P.H., Jas. Denis Fanning
- 27 Darcy Jasph. greengro
- 37 Cummings Mrs. Mary Ellen sbkpr
- 45 Thorpe Mrs. Laura manageress**

Langsdale st

- 57 "Great Eastern Vaults" P.H., Jas. Dunn
- 89 Mason Mrs. Edith sbkpr
- 91 Lucas Wm. Jn. wardrobe dir

The British Newspaper Archive has an article in the Liverpool Echo 2nd Aug 1916 in which Laura Thorpe's young boy is rescued from the River Mersey, she states "*the boy has no father*"



[British Newspaper Archive]

Laura may have been boarding as a domestic servant in 1911 for an old lady, but none of her children.

Name: Laura Thorpe
Event Type: Census
Event Date: 1911
Event Place: Liverpool, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom
Gender: Female
Age: 23
Marital Status: Single
Marital Status (Original): SINGLE
Occupation: DOMESTIC SERVANT

Laura is also praised from trying to rescue a child from drowning in a Water Board Tank in the Liverpool Echo 12th May 1942



[British Newspaper Archive]

Checking on the Liverpool Electoral Rolls for around the 1942 era at 45 Canterbury Street mentioned in the newspaper clip we find MARGARET and ALFRED BROWN, familiar names from the 1901 census and anchor document.

Name	Residence Year	Street address
Margaret Brown	1945	Canterbury Street A. 45
Robert L Redman	1945	CANTERBURY STREET 45 A
Alfred Brown	1945	Canterbury Street 45
Margaret A Brown	1945	Canterbury Street 45

[Liverpool Electoral Rolls]

Mary A Taylor	Head	Widow		64
Alfred Brown	S-in-law	M	28	
Margaret E Brown	Daughter	M		31
William Brown	Son		5	
Herbert Brown	do		4	
Arthur Brown	do		2	
Eric Brown	do		9m	
Mary Taylor	Daughter	S		28
Elizabeth Spector	Sister	Widow		69
John Thorpe	Visitor	Widow	35	
Alfred Thorpe	do		9	

[The anchor document – 1901 Census]



Canterbury Street at Carver St [LiverpoolPicturebook.com]



Canterbury Street at Langdale St [LiverpoolPicturebook.com]

There are no BMD records for a Laura Thorpe but I think she is Laura Coxton, born 04/1889 and daughter of Hiram and Margaret Coxton of Wrigley Street, Liverpool (1891).

Baptism: 8 Apr 1889 St Peter, Liverpool, Lancashire, England
 Laura Coxton - [Child] of Hiram Coxton & Margaret
 Born: 18 Mar 1889
 Abode: Soho St
 Occupation: Baker

The birth dates are slightly out of kilter with the 1939 Register but so is Freebmd quoting June Qtr 1889
 With the variable dates of son Ernest too I get the impression she does not want to be “found”, is this why Alfred J gets the pension ?

Still searching for the two siblings of Ernest Thorpe, but it is highly likely now that John William Thorpe did not marry Laura but had the three children quoted in Macintyre’s book.

ALBERT Thorpe (Possible Child 2)

A second child ALBERT is a possibility with the mother's name just given as Thorpe

Name: Albert Thorpe
Event Type: Birth Registration
Registration Quarter: Oct-Nov-Dec
Registration Year: 1912
Registration District: Liverpool
County: Lancashire
Event Place: Liverpool, Lancashire, England
Mother's Maiden Name: **Thorpe**

Marriages Mar 1935

Thorpe Albert Travis Barton, Lancs

From the 1939 Register FMP

Albert Thorpe's life in 1939 b. 16th Nov 1912
110 Bolton Road, Salford C.B., Lancashire, England

Lily	Thorpe	1914
First name	Last name(s)	Birth year
Albert	Thorpe	1912

Lily (Travis) Thorpe is also on this record
Lily Thorpe b.1914

Deaths Mar 1954

THORPE Albert 42 Manchester

Deaths Jun 1955

THORPE Ernest 45 Manchester

The Final Chapter



**Pte William Thorpe
(1888-1916)**

This research was sent to Ben Macintyre in the hope that he may have time to read it, his secretary said that he received huge volumes of correspondence but would forward it to him.

To my great surprise Ben responded quite quickly *"I am convinced that you have indeed tracked down our man."*