



Private Leslie Shilton 573334



16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers

Killed in Action Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918

Age 19

Ors Communal Cemetery, France, Row B Grave 1

Burbage war Memorial

Wesleyan War Memorial

Leslie was the third son of the five children of Thomas and Jane Shilton.

Leslie was born in Burbage in the summer of 1899. The family lived at 12 Freemans Lane before moving across the road to 13 Balls Lane shortly before 1911.

Along with his older siblings Leslie would have attended the local Methodist Day School on Windsor Street. In 1902 the school became part of the Burbage Council Schools and families who did not attend the Wesleyan Church were allowed to enrol there.

Thomas was a shoe hand but it is not recorded what type of work Leslie went into on leaving school at the age of 13.

On reaching the age of 18 in the summer of 1917 Leslie would have been eligible for conscription. It is known he enlisted in Hinckley.

He would be aware of the conditions of war from his elder brother Stanley. In December 1918 a benefit concert was held for him and Percy Malkin when on leave. Stanley survived the war and returned to his job as a glazier.

It is known that six of the Shilton's close neighbours were also killed during the war.

Along with the other Burbage men who fell in the last few weeks of the war Leslie was serving in the last few battles on the Western Front.

Serving alongside him with the Lancashire Fusiliers was Second Lieutenant Wilfred Owen of the Manchester regiment. Owen was one of the Great War poets. The allied armies bolstered by American reinforcements, were involved in what would be known as the Hundred Days Offensive which brought about the liberation of the occupied territories and the surrender of the German Army.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> November Leslie Shilton was killed in action. On the same day Wilfred Owen was killed whilst leading his men across La Sambre Canal.

Perhaps they both fell together? Two Victoria crosses were also awarded for this operation.

Both Leslie Shilton and Wilfred Owen are one of the 59 buried in the small Ors Communal Cemetery in France.



St Catherine's Church, Burbage



Ors Communal Cemetery, France

Record No.	Registry No.	Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised £ s. d.	No. of List in which advertised
					Account and Date	£	s.	d.	Account and Date	£				
821344	12126	Shilton Leslie	14 Plk. Lanc. Fus. Div. A Plk. Shilton 57234	4.11.18. P. France	8	7	3	For Mrs. Janet Shilton	6.5.19	For Mrs. Janet Shilton Hon. Sarah J.	8	7	3	
					Including War Gratuity 6.10.0									

Soldiers effects