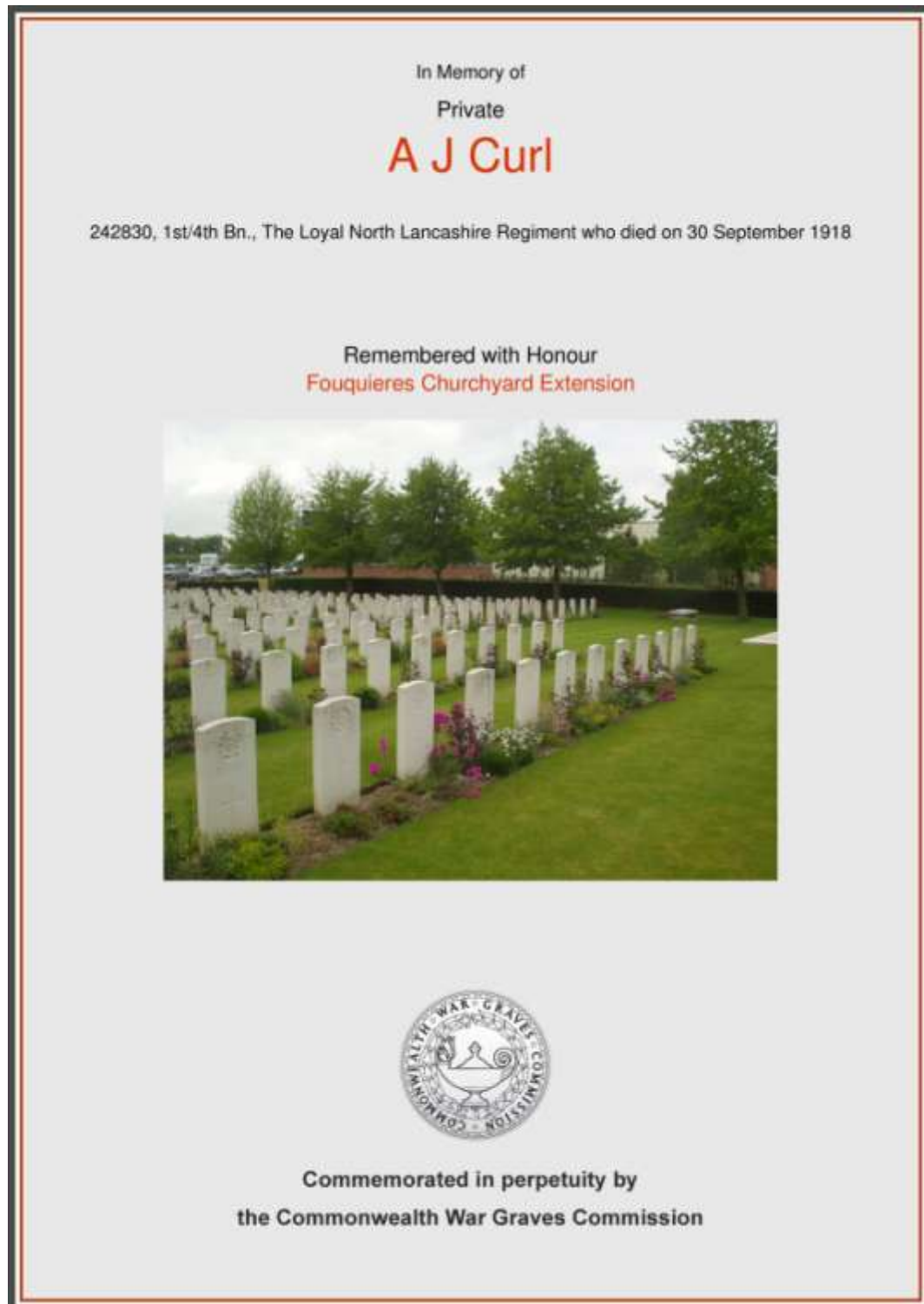


# Arthur James Curl

(1897 – 1918)



(15)

## War Record

Arthur James Curl had been an inmate of the orphanage at Crowthorn and served with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment (1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> (Territorial) Battalion (Service number: 242830). He enlisted in 1915 and died in France on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1918. He is remembered on the war memorial at the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Bolton Road.<sup>(1)(2)</sup>

## Family History

Arthur was born on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1897 in Dorking, Surrey, and attended the St. Martiin's Church of England School. He lived in North Street, Dorking and is shown as being at the school as late as August 1905.<sup>(16)</sup>

## The Curl Family in 1901<sup>(1)</sup>

Walter	40	Gardener, born: Wiltshire
Emily	33	born: Brockham, Surrey
Emily C	12	born: Dorking, Surrey
Margaret K	10	born: Brockham, Surrey
Walter W	8	born: Dorking, Surrey
Arthur James	4	born: Dorking, Surrey
Herbert R	0	born: Dorking, Surrey
George James	50 (boarder)	born: General Labourer, Whaddon, Buckinghamshire

Arthur's father, Walter died in April 1906.<sup>(3)</sup> This left his Emily with six children.

By the time of the 1911 census Emily is in the Dorking Union Workhouse, aged 42. Her eldest daughter, Emily, married in 1909 and her other children are shown to be dispersed around the country. Margaret is in domestic service in Croydon. Walter is working on a farm in Norfolk. Arthur is shown as an Inmate of the orphanage at Crowthorn. Herbert is an Inmate of the Boy's House, Kings Norton, Birmingham. There is a further sister, Edith Dorothy Curl born in 1903 and in 1911 living at the Albany Home, Surrey. Emily eventually dies in the second quarter of 1917 at the age of 49.<sup>(1)</sup>

There are two service records for Arthur, which was rather unusual. He attempted to join the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on 7th November 1914 (Service No: 17637) aged 19. However, he was only 5' 3" tall, with a 34.5" chest, fresh complexion, blue gray eyes and brown hair. His address is given as 37 Bolton Road, Edgworth and his trade as Crofter. He had a scar on his chin and birthmark on his forearm. He was discharged on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1914 as "not likely to become an efficient soldier under paragraph 392 of the Kings Regulations." (presumably because of his height).<sup>(2)</sup>

Now living at 308 Blackburn Road, he signs up again on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1915. This time he has miraculously grown another inch and is successful in his attempt.<sup>(2)</sup>

Arthur's service is listed as being in Bolton from enlistment in August 1915 up to 12<sup>th</sup> February 1917. He then leaves for France. On one form his occupation is shown as "Collier" so that perhaps explains why he does not appear to go to France earlier.<sup>(2)</sup>

He was wounded by a "gas shell" in January 1918 and seems to have been in England until July 1918. He then returns to France and was killed in action on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1918.<sup>(2)</sup>

He was buried in Plot IV, J1 at Fouquieres and the registration report notes that a "cross had been erected"<sup>(15)</sup>. He is also remembered on the war memorial in the Wesleyan Methodist Churchyard, Bolton Road.

His effects and medals were to be sent to his sister, Miss E.D Curl, at Cockshot Farm, Coldharbour, Surrey. Edith was his youngest sibling and was living at 308 Blackburn Road, Edgworth when Arthur enlisted for the second time.<sup>(2)</sup>

Walter went into the army and Herbert to the Navy.<sup>(2)</sup>



(17)

**Research:** Linda Spencer

**Standard References:** 1,2,3,15, plus:

16 National school registers – [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

17 Postcard P Harwood collection – publisher unknown