

**Southern Cemetery,  
Manchester, Lancashire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**8245 PRIVATE**

**W. MOSSOP**

**1ST BN. CHESHIRE REGIMENT**

**23RD MAY, 1915 Age 22**

## William MOSSOP

William Liston Mossop was born on 31st January, 1891 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia to parents John & Nellie Mossop (nee Liston).

The 1901 England Census recorded William Mossop as a 10 year old living with his family in a 4 roomed dwelling at 8 Tunstall Street, Ardwick, South Manchester, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John Mossop (Night Watchman, aged 41, born Whitehaven, Cumberland) & Nellie Mossop (aged 34, born Sheerness, Kent). William was one of five children listed on this Census – John Mossop (Clerk, aged 13, born Australia), Nellie S. Mossop (aged 12, born Australia) then William, Elizabeth Mossop (aged 6, born Chatham, Kent) & James Mossop (aged 1, born Manchester, Lancs).

The 1911 England Census recorded William Mossop as a 20 year old Labourer (Joiner), living with his family in a 5 roomed dwelling at 7 College Street, Greenheyas, Manchester, Lancashire, England. His parents were listed as John Mossop (Electric Wireman, aged 52) & Nellie Mossop (aged 45). John & Nellie Mossop had been married for 25 years & had 7 children in total. Six of their children were listed on this Census – John Mossop (Tool Fitter, aged 24), then William, Elisabeth Mossop (Shop Assistant (Drapery), aged 16), James Mossop (At School, aged 11), Leonard Mossop (At School, aged 7, born Manchester, Lancs) & Kathleen Mossop (At School, aged 5, born Manchester, Lancs).

William Mossop joined the Cheshire Regiment at Hyde, Cheshire. He was posted to 1st Battalion, Cheshire Regiment with a Service number of 8245 (source: Soldier's Died in the Great War. Casualty lists in newspapers listed Pte W. Mossop with 3rd Battalion, Cheshire Regiment ).

Private William Mossop entered a Theatre of War in France on 28th November, 1914.

Private William Mossop was wounded in action. He was admitted to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station at Poperinghe, Belgium on 13th March, 1915 with gunshot wounds to left leg. He was transferred on 14th March, 1915 to "No. 10 A T" (Ambulance Train).

Private William Mossop was wounded in action again on 3rd May, 1915.

Newspaper item – *Chester Chronicle*, Chester, Cheshire, England - 5 June, 1915:

### **CHESHIRE CASUALTIES**

MOSSOP, Pte W., 8245, wounded scalp

&

### **CHESHIRE CASUALTIES**

MOSSOP, Pte W., 8245 wounded, serious

Newspaper item – *Western Star and Roma Advertiser*, Toowoomba, Queensland – 31 July, 1915:

### **Tommy's Longing for Home**

#### **WISHFUL TO SEE HIS MOTHER'S FACE AGAIN**

*One of the most tragic and dramatic diaries of the war was found in the valise of Pt. William Mossop, of the 1st Cheshires, who has died in hospital at Oxford as the result of wounds received in the fighting line. The many miraculous escapes he had in the vicinity of Hill 60 almost made him a "fatalist and rather superstitious." The following is a quotation from the diary, and illustrates the terrible experiences through which he passed before reach home :-*

3-5-15 – *A struggle for the Royal Lancasters. Put in fateful place The same night big shell dropped. He was blown to bits, and \_\_\_\_\_, stretcher bearer, was hit. Moved to a place of safety at last. Slept well. Woke at early morning, Germans broke through trenches at Hill 60. Pressed and moved off to reinforce. Two hours dodging shells, shrapnel, and bullets. A terrible bombardment. Men lying dead two miles before reaching firing line. Went to fire trench. Manned the parapet for ten minutes. Retired to support trench, and within 15 minutes was hit by a bullet in a place where a man is supposed to be pretty safe, viz, the support trenches. Was hit about noon, and spent an anxious time lying in a dug-out with some more wounded, expecting to be blown up any time by our own or the German shells dropping on us. No stretchers to be had that night. God help the helpless. Reached destination, was only one casualty, but, through the short handedness of R.A.M.C., wounded had to depend on their own and voluntary exertion to get them to where the ambulances were. Found it at last when nearly dead.*

*Early Thursday morning - Wounded arriving in droves. Field in front full of wounded, and little field in the rear full of dead, who have died of wounds. Sardonic fate again.*

6-5-15 – *Was dressed and put on a springless cart down to \_\_\_\_\_. Horrible journey. My chief surprise is that I could undergo such privations without dying, or going mad. But the knowledge that you are getting away from the slaughter-house to comforts supports you marvellously. Arrived at \_\_\_\_\_ at dusk, was re-dressed, and put on Red Cross train to Boulogne.*

7-5-15 – *All right travelling. Painful night, alleviated by opiate. Arrived Boulogne 8 o'clock. Full expected and oh! desired so much to be shoved on the boat for the Mecca of all poor tommies; but was shunted down to Versailles, the second time that has happened to me. What cursed luck! Gone through a winter campaign, on duty all the time, six months in this God-forsaken country, wounded twice, then can't get home to see your people.*

10-5-15 -7.30 p.m. *Hurrah! the doctors have just paid a visit to take my name. I think it is for "blighty" (home). My God, I hope so. It will be a sleepless night for me wondering and waiting. 8 pm – Are my hopes dashed to the ground after six months' conscientious and hard soldiering for my country. Mother and home! I dream of you to-night. How soon shall I see your face again? Roll on, "blighty".*

11-5-15 – 8 a.m. -*As I thought another sleepless night. Doctor visited me again to correct his list of names. I think it is for "blighty." We all I think so. There will be some breaking hearts if we are wrong..... Tommy is the best all round soldier on the field. What magnificent soldiers they are. Shell, shrapnel, and bullets, pouring all round and above them, their mates dead or dying, and no thought of retreat till the order is given.*

*"Theirs not to reason or wonder,  
But to die or conquer."*

Private William Mossop died on 23rd May, 1915 at Oxford Hospital, England from wounds (gas) received in action.

A death for William Mossop, aged 24, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of Oxford, Oxfordshire, England.

Private William Mossop was buried on 27th May, 1915 in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England – Plot number Q. 398 (Screen Wall). Many of the War Graves are scattered throughout the Cemetery & there are two separate War Grave plots, one for each war, whose graves are not headstoned but have screen wall memorials on which those buried are listed. Private Mossop does not have a headstone but his name is included on a Screen Wall. His death is still acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private William Mossop was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Mossop – service number 8245, aged 22, of 1st Battalion, Cheshire Regiment. He was the son of Mrs Nellie Mossop, of 110 Main Road, Moss Side, Manchester. Born at Queensland, Australia.

Private William Mossop is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.



**Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial** (*Capital Photographer*)

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **LOCAL NAMES IN LISTS ISSUED TO-DAY**

The following casualties amongst warrant officers, non-commission officers, and men of local regiments in the Expeditionary Force are reported under various dates;

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Cheshire Regiment – 2nd Battalion: 10859 Pte R. Ford, 11020 Pte J. Quinn, 8215 Acting-sergt. J. Wynne. 3rd Battalion: 8245 Pte W. Mossop. ....

*(Liverpool Echo, Liverpool, Merseyside, England - 3 July, 1915)*

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### **THE WAR**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

CHESHIRE REGIMENT – 3rd Battalion: Mossop, 8245, W.

*(Cheshire Observer, Chester, Cheshire, England - 10 July, 1915)*

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## **Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England**

During the First World War, Manchester contained between thirty and forty war hospitals, including the 2nd Western General Hospital and the Nell Lane Military Hospital for prisoners of war. Many of those buried in the cemeteries and churchyards of the city died in these hospitals. During the Second World War, there was a Royal Air Force Station at Heaton Park, Manchester.

Manchester Southern Cemetery contains burials of both wars, the majority of them scattered. There are also separate plots for First and Second World War burials, but in neither case are the graves marked individually; instead, each plot has a Screen Wall bearing the names of those buried there. Each plot has a Cross of Sacrifice. In all, 803 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War, including 1 unidentified, and 475 from the Second World War, including 3 unidentified, are now commemorated in the cemetery; there is also 1 non-war service grave.

The Screen Wall in the Second World War plot also bears the names of 177 servicemen and women whose remains were cremated. Further memorials in this plot commemorate 17 Polish servicemen buried there, and a number of casualties of both wars buried in other cemeteries and churchyards in the Manchester area whose graves could no longer be maintained.

Casualties buried in the following cemeteries and churchyards are now alternatively commemorated on Screen Wall Memorials in Manchester Southern Cemetery:

Ashton-under-Lyne (St Michael) Churchyard Extension  
Birch-in-Rusholme (St James) Churchyard  
Bury (Brunswick) United Methodist Cemetery  
Cheetham Hill (St Luke) Churchyard  
Eccles (St Mary) Churchyard  
Eccleston (St Thomas) Churchyard Extension  
Edgeworth Congregational Chapelyard  
Hey (or Lees) (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension  
Manchester General Cemetery  
Newton Heath (All Saints) Church Cemetery  
Openshaw (St Barnabas) Churchyard  
Swinton Unitarian Chapelyard.

*(Information & photos from CWGC)*

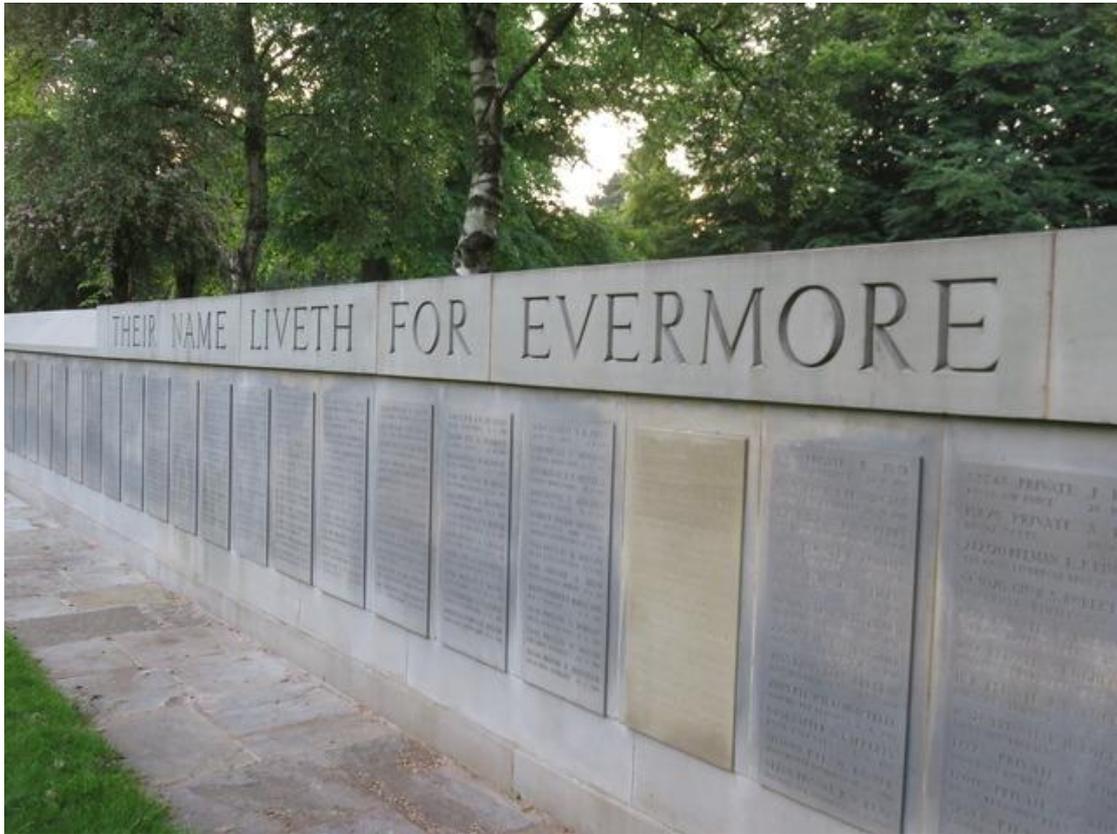


Photo of Private W. Mossop's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall in Southern Cemetery, Manchester, Lancashire, England.



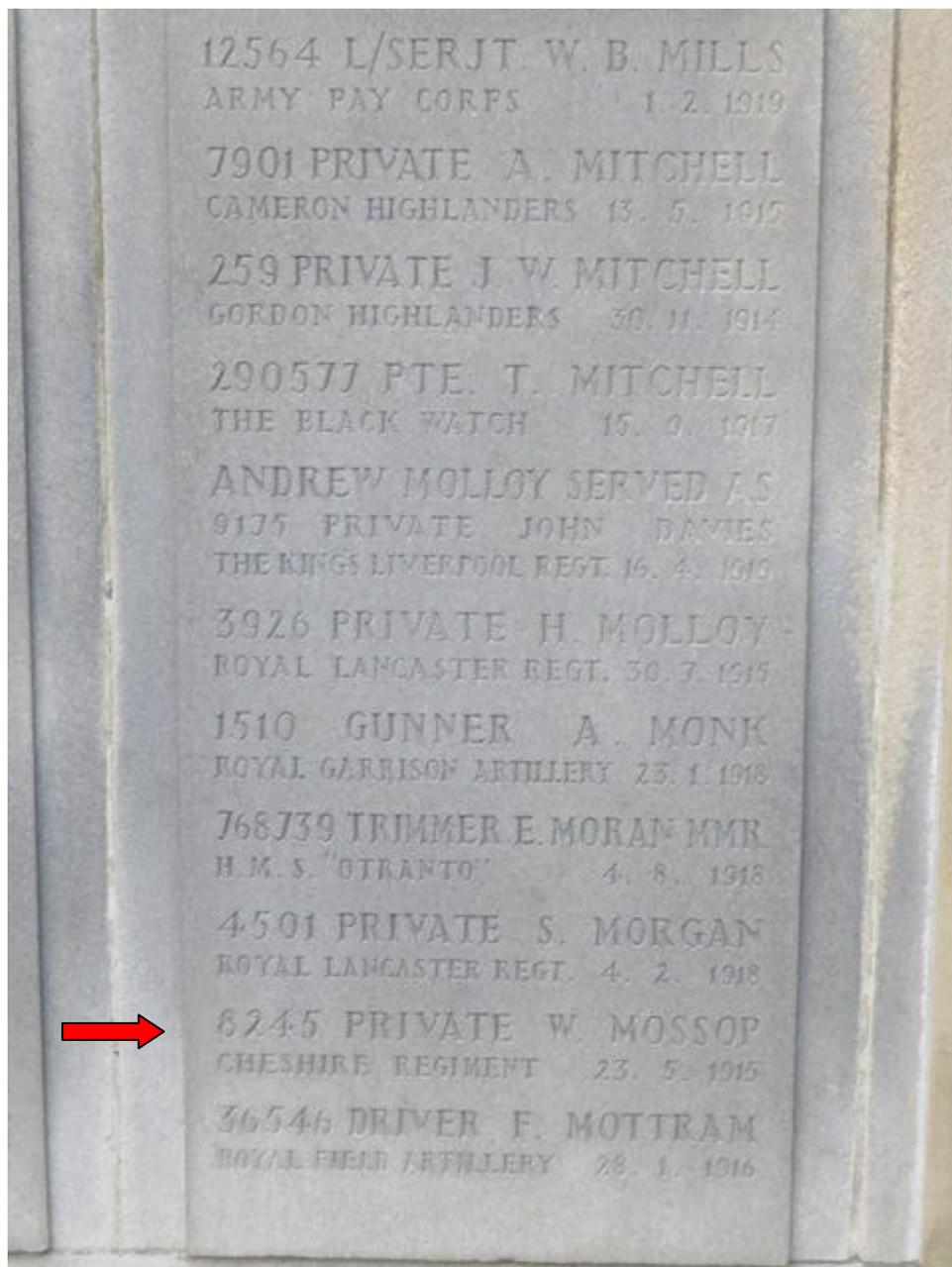
*(Photos by Berenice Baynham)*





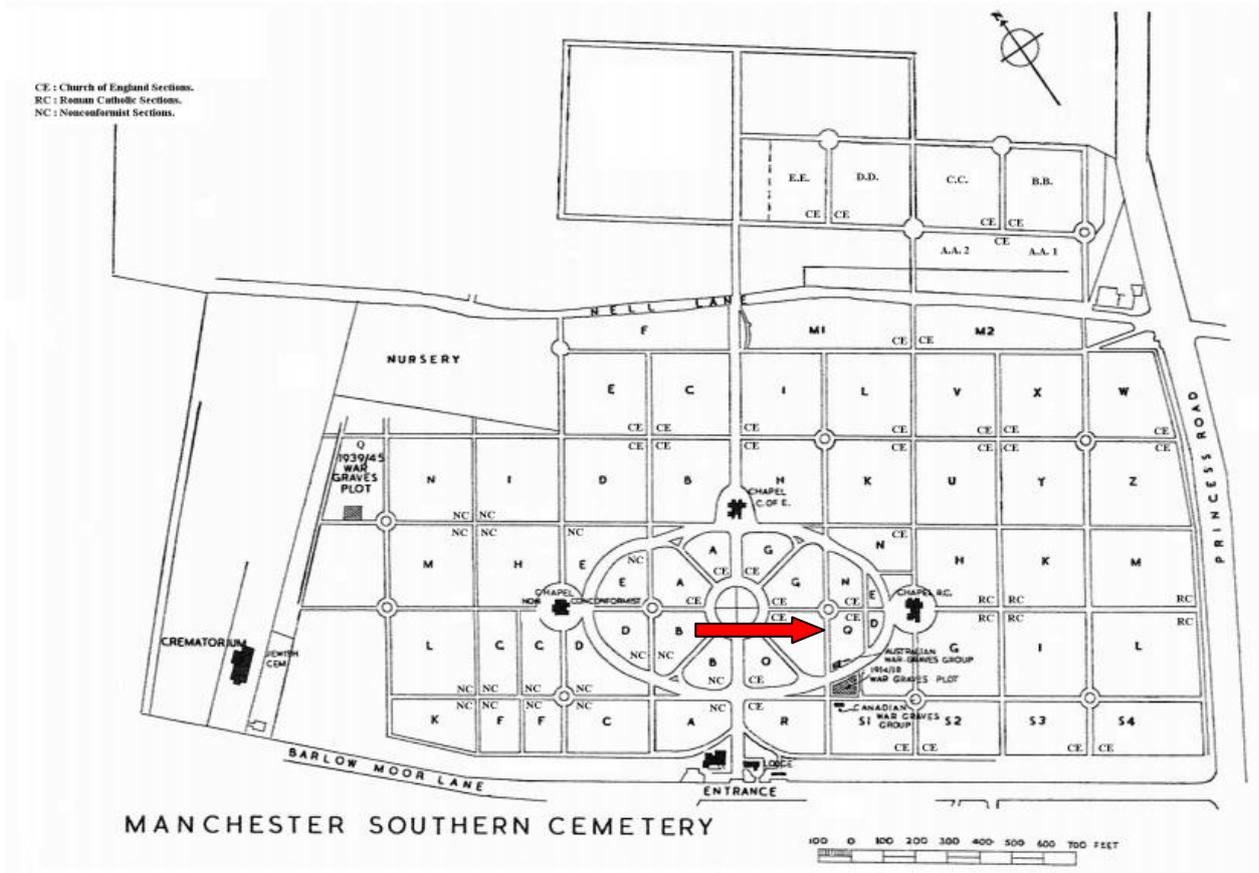
*(Photo courtesy of Berenice Baynham)*





(Photo courtesy of Berenice Baynham)





Southern Cemetery, Manchester (Australian War Graves Group marked with arrow)

