Rank:	Private
Service Number:	268212.
Regiment:	6th Bn. Cheshire Regiment **Formerly:** (2969) 7th Cheshire Regiment
Died of wounds	Sunday 25th November 1917
Age	23
County Memorial	Macclesfield
Commemorated\Buried	Macclesfield Cemetery **Grave\Panel Ref:** C.3014.

Country	United Kingdom

Arthur William's Story.

EARLY LIFE

Arthur William Naden was born on 25 May 1894 and baptised on 30 September 1894 at St Peter's Church, Macclesfield, the son of Louisa Mowcroft and Joshua Naden, a labourer (later a silk dyer) of 74 Brown Street, Macclesfield.

Arthur was educated at Lord Street School, being enrolled there on 21 Feb 1899.

In 1901, six-year-old Arthur was living at 61 Brown Street with his parents and siblings Emma (15), Clarence (11), Annie (9), Harry (8), Ellis (4) and Herbert (2). By 1911, the family included two more girls, Gladys and Eva, Joshua had died, and sixteen year old Arthur had left school and was employed as a gimp maker at Davenport's mill.

Arthur was later employed by the Great Central and North Staffordshire Joint Railway Companies as a goods porter at Bollington Goods Dept., joining the National Union of Railwaymen on 3 August 1913.

WW1 SERVICE

Arthur enlisted in the local 7th Cheshire (Territorial) Regiment in Macclesfield in October 1914, receiving service number 2969. He was drafted overseas with this battalion in August 1915, participating in the Gallipoli landings at Suvla Bay.

Arthur was later repatriated to England for hospital treatment and on recovery was transferred to the 6th battalion of the Cheshire regiment, receiving service number 15412 – later changed to 268212. He was drafted out to France on Christmas Day 1916. Notes on the medal roll show he was later attached to the 234th Company of the Royal Engineers.

Arthur was wounded on 6 August 1917 during the battle of Vimy Ridge. He was repatriated to England and treated at the Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, but died of his wounds on 25 November.

Arthur's death was reported in the Macclesfield Times on 30 November 1917:

> *DIED OF WOUNDS – A LATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEE*

News has this week been received by Mrs Naden, 61 Brown St, Macclesfield, that her son, Pte Arthur Wm Naden, Cheshire Regt, died at Brook War Hospital, Woolwich, on Nov 25th from wounds received in action on August 6th in the battle of Vimy Ridge. Pte Naden was 23 years of age and enlisted in the local Territorials in October 1914. He went out to the Dardanelles and took part in the landing at Suvla Bay. Contracting dysentery he was in hospital at Malta and was later invalided to England. He spent his hospital leave in Macclesfield and afterwards trained at Oswestry. He was transferred to another battalion of the Cheshire Regt and was drafted out to France on Christmas Day, 1916. Deceased was in several engagements. Before enlistment Pte Naden was employed by the Great Central and North Stafford Joint Railway Companies.

A brother, Pte Ellis Naden, is also serving with the Cheshire Regt in Egypt, and was in the first battle at Gaza. Another brother, Pte Herbert Naden, is employed as an army cook at Great Yarmouth.

The funeral of Pte A W Naden will take place at the Macclesfield Cemetery tomorrow (Saturday 1st December) with military honours.

Private Naden's funeral was described in the following week's issue:

MILITARY FUNERAL AT MACCLESFIELD

With military honours, the funeral of Pte A W Naden, Cheshire Regt, of Brown St, whose death was recorded in our last issue, took place at the Macclesfield Cemetery on Saturday. A firing party from the local Volunteers, in charge of Sergt-Major Heath; the Macclesfield Old Town Silver Band, and representatives from the Union of Railwaymen at Macclesfield and Bollington preceded the hearse. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and the deceased's cap and belt were placed on top. As the cortege wended its way to the Cemetery the band played the Dead March. At the Cemetery a large crowd of people assembled, and the last rites were conducted by Mr N B Storey. A volley was fired, and the "Last Post" sounded by Patrol Leader A Parker, of Christ Church Troop of Boy Scouts. Many floral tributes were received, including one from the National Union of Railwaymen.

Pte Naden, who died of wounds received in the battle of Vimy Ridge, was an old boy of Lord Street School. His grandfather

fought in the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny, and had medals and clasps.

A memorial service, attended by members of the family, was conducted at the Mill Street Mission on Sunday by Mr Storey, who made appropriate reference to Pte Naden.

COMMEMORATION

Private Arthur Naden is buried in grave ref. C. 3014 in Macclesfield Cemetery. His mother asked for the words *"AT REST"* to be inscribed on his headstone. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission holds casualty details for Private Arthur Naden, and he is listed on the Imperial War Museum's Lives of the First World War website.

In Macclesfield, Private Arthur Naden is commemorated on the Park Green, Town Hall, St Michael's Church and St John's Church war memorials.

NOTES

Brother of Ellis Naden, who served as Private 290838 with the Cheshire Regt; and of Herbert Naden, who served as an army cook at Great Yarmouth, and later as Private 529201 with the Agricultural Labour Company. Both are believed to have survived the war.

SOURCES

GRO (England & Wales) Index: Births

Census (England & Wales): 1901, 1911

National School Admission Registers and Log-books (FindMyPast):

Macclesfield Lord Street School

Trade Union membership records (Find My Past)

WWI British Army Medal Rolls Index Cards (Ancestry)

WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls (Ancestry)

WWI Casualty Lists (The Genealogist)

WWI Absent Voters Lists (FindMyPast): Macclesfield Parliamentary Division

National Railway Museum database of fallen railwaymen

Commonwealth War Graves Commission website

Lives of the First World War website

Macclesfield Times: 30 November 1917, 7 December 1917, 23 September 1921 (photo supplement)

Research by Rosie Rowley.