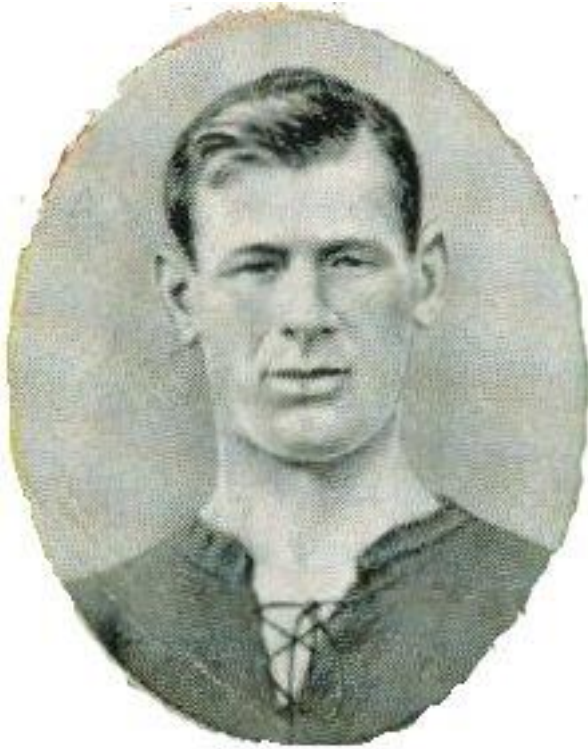


# Joe Mercer and the Football Battalion

Mike Royden



Joseph Powell Mercer was born in Higher Bebington on 21st July, 1889. As a teenager while learning the bricklaying trade, he played football for the Burnell's Ironworks football team -Ellesmere Port F.C.- as a promising centre-half. Scouts soon became aware of his qualities and in 1910 he was snapped up by Nottingham Forest, then in the top flight. While in Nottingham he lived in digs, returning home during the summer break, where he carried on working in his 'proper job' on local building sites.

In June 1913, while back in the Port, he married Ethel Breeze in the local parish church of Christchurch. Joe still looked upon himself as a bricklayer, his true occupation - how times have changed for footballers; despite still being in the first team in one of the most famous clubs, he still put down his occupation as bricklayer on the census form of 1911 and his marriage certificate of 1913 – no mention of 'footballer'. And this despite playing

over 150 regular first team games between 1910-1914. His footballing career did pay well however. The maximum wage was £4 per week, but even if he was earning less than this, he was still far better off than the skilled and semi-skilled who were averaging £97 and £63 per year respectively, and many of his contemporaries were unskilled labourers on much less than that. But at the peak of his playing career, the outbreak of hostilities put paid to any further aspirations on the footballing front. It must have been a week of tortured emotions for him, given that his young son, Joseph junior, the first of four children, was born 5 days after war was declared on 9 August 1914 at their home in 32 Queen Street, Ellesmere Port (in those days there was a true close season, from the end of April until the beginning of September, and the Mercers had retained their family home). His infant son would also become a footballer, and one day would manage the England football team.

*(right: Queen Street)*





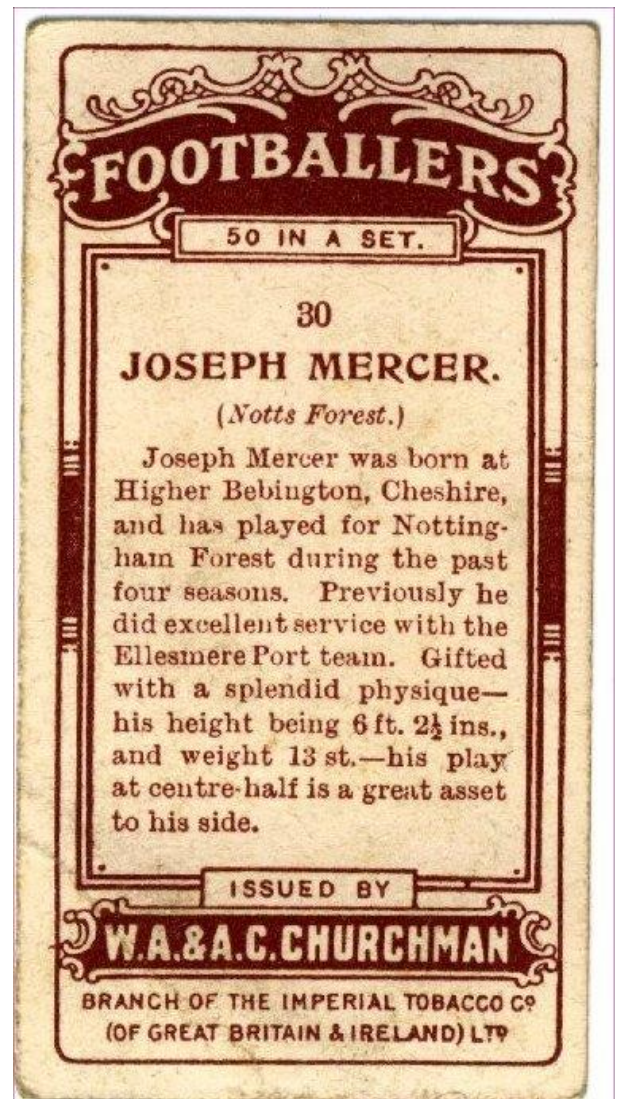


Of course, with the general opinion across the country that it would all be over by Christmas, most footballers probably felt they should carry on playing, until the authorities – be it the F.A. or the government - told them otherwise. Inevitably, the focus of discussion on who ought to be serving soon turned to sportsmen. Pressure came, for example, from the author Arthur Conan Doyle, who appealed on 6 September 1914 for footballers to join the armed forces:

‘There was a time for all things in the world. There was a time for games, there was a time for business, and there was a time for domestic life. There was a time for everything, but there is only time for one thing now, and that thing is war. If the cricketer had a straight eye, let him look along the barrel of a rifle. If a footballer had strength of limb, let them serve and march in the field of battle.’

[On 28 October 1918 his son, Kingsley Doyle, died from pneumonia, which he contracted during his convalescence after being seriously wounded during the 1916 Battle of the Somme].

Others even verbally attacked the West Ham United players calling them effeminate and cowardly for getting paid for playing football while others were fighting on the Western Front. C.B.Fry, the well-known amateur footballer and cricketer, called for football to be abolished, all professional contracts be annulled, and furthermore, that no one below forty years of age be allowed to attend matches. Eventually, the F.A. – after considerable pressure – called for clubs to release professional footballers who were not married to allow them to join up, while the War Office worked with the F.A. to organise recruitment drives at games that were still being played.



Sections of the press though saw this as an attempt by the ruling classes to stop the one single recreation enjoyed by the masses on just one day in the week. The *Athletic News* angrily declared.

‘What do they care for the poor man's sport? The poor are giving their lives for this country in thousands. In many cases they have nothing else... These should, according to a small clique of virulent snobs, be deprived of the one distraction that they have had for over thirty years.’

Many footballers did not wait for Christmas, and heeded the call by early December 1914, when the 17th Service (Football) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment was established. Within a few weeks the 17th Battalion had its full complement of 600 men. Not all were footballers however, as many recruits were local men who wanted to be in the same battalion as their football heroes. Nevertheless, by March 1915, it was reported that 122 professional footballers had joined the battalion.

It was this battalion that Joseph Mercer joined in December 1914. He had returned to start the new season in early September, but felt it was time to enlist. After months of training, the battalion reached the front line on 15 January 1916. In a two week spell in the trenches four members of the battalion were killed and 33 were wounded. The battalion also took heavy casualties during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. Joseph Mercer survived the war and spoke about his experiences to the local press on his return home<sup>4</sup> January 1919,

### **Prominent Footballer's Experiences**

Ellesmere Port people are always interested in the career of Sergeant Joseph Mercer, the Nottingham Forest half-back, who at one time played for Burnell's Ironworks. He is now one of Ellesmere Port's repatriated prisoners of war, and thanks to his fine physique he has come through the ordeal well. He enlisted in the Footballer's Battalion on 16 December 1914, and we may say at the outset, that he considers this battalion one of the finest for good comradeship that ever crossed to France.

He went over to France on 17 October 1915 and after 20 months fighting in the line, was taken prisoner on 28 April 1917. The battalion was in some heavy fighting including Delville Wood, where they lost 300 men in 1½ hours. Sergeant Mercer was wounded in the head by shrapnel in August 1916. He was taken prisoner near Arras. His company went right through a village, but the right and left were held up and he heard afterwards that only two of the company got back. He was hit in the leg, and shot in the shoulder by a bullet. He lay in a shell hole for several hours and was under a British barrage for two hours being very thankful when it finished. Sergeant Mercer tried to get back to British lines, but ran into a German machine gun party, which settled matters.

He was taken to Douai in a motor ambulance and then to Langensalza, a three days' journey by train. The food was such that no wounded man could tackle it at all. He was pleased to see Britishers helping in the hospital and later got in touch with Jim McCormick, Plymouth Argyle's right half-back who was a great help. The food at Langensalza was terrible, and often included raw fish and black bread and coffee twice a day. Only the Russians could eat it, and they were from behind the line, almost at starvation point. Sergeant Mercer states it reminded him more than anything of Woodward's sea lions. He afterwards was sent to Giessen, and here the other prisoners shared their parcels until those for the newcomers arrived from home. At this camp five-a-side football contests were arranged. The prisoners subscribed half a mark each towards the prizes and the sides were picked in fives as the names came out of a bag. They had to buy wood from the Germans to make goalposts and nets were made from string taken from parcels received from England. An amusing feature of the contests was that the Germans would not allow the referee to use his whistle because it excited the guard. He had to use a little bell and even at times a mouth organ. To enable the British to have their usual 'flutter', a book was made on the matches. The prizes for the contests were all given in cash.

The commandant at Giessen was usually very fair and held the British up as a pattern to other nationalities in the camp for their cleanliness, not that he loved the British any more for it. The

commandant at Meschede once met a prisoner coming from the stores carrying two tins of food. The man was too loaded to salute – the commandant led him to a drain and made him pour the contents of the tins down the drain. Later he had to do fourteen days ‘strafe’.

Sergeant Mercer left Giessen for Meschede on 17 March 1918, and his new camp was known to be one of the worst in Germany. The prisoners were non-commissioned officers, men who were no good to the Germans for work, which meant a great deal. The distributions methods were such that they stood very little chance of getting their parcels. One portion of the camp was set aside to receive men of all nationalities who had been working behind the lines. Those who lived through this ordeal were in a terrible state, but quite 25 per cent died, and as many as five Britishers were carried from the train dead on arrival at the camp. No one had been allowed to take them any food, the prevention of disease being the excuse made by the Germans, and special guards were provided carrying switches of barbed wire with which they used to strike at any prisoners trying to take food over the fence. One day, one or two N.C.O.s were allowed in to take in the names of newly arrived prisoners. A man brought in a bath of so-called soup and the starving prisoners absolutely mobbed him. There was such a rush that as soon as one man got a bowl full it was upset in the crush and all the soup was wasted.

Efforts were made to start a British Help Committee at this camp and despite all German efforts to stop it, it was eventually carried through, mainly by the efforts of Petty Officer Brooks of the R.N.A.S., a neutral named Rogeburg of the North American Y.M.C.A. and Sergeant Mercer. It took about four months to get going, but was of great benefit afterwards, bulk supplies of parcels being obtained, which kept the men going until the parcels came from home. The camp accommodation was ten thousand and when the Armistice was signed this number had increased to 22,000 by men coming into the camp from working parties. Men were walking about all night and things were very bad. The camp authorities asked the prisoners to appoint delegates to visit Army Headquarters, but the British refused to do this, saying it was against their discipline. The German idea was to get the Armistice terms moderated.

En route to the frontier, it was pitiful to see the German women and children without food and the prisoners gave a good deal away, even of the little they had. While at Meschede, the Germans pillaged the prisoners’ supply of medicine, in fact, the Help Committee wrote home to ask the Depot at Hove not to send further supplies. A tunnel was made at Meschede with a view to escape but it was discovered by the Germans and the prisoners from the whole barrack, about 250, had to do 21 days “dark cells” in batches of thirty. Sergeant Mercer was not ill-treated himself, and says that the Germans never tackled anyone strong – it was always the poor chaps from behind the lines who had no strength. He adds that it was fine the way the Britishers stuck together under all circumstances, and if a man is a prisoner of war it soon brings out the bad or good in him. Except for the stiffness in his arm, Sergeant Mercer is sound in wind and limb, and soon hopes to be able to take up football in real earnest’.

*Chester Observer 4 January 1919*

After the war Mercer resumed his career with Nottingham Forest, but after 5 years away he knew he would have to drop to a lower league, and returned to his Wirral home to sign for Tranmere Rovers in 1921. Considering he had taken a bullet to the shoulder, shrapnel in the head, wounds to the leg, then resumed a physically demanding career, it is surprising that his death in 1927 was caused by health problems resulting from a gas attack in the trenches ten years earlier. To have coped with such handicaps in his post war career is remarkable. Something to consider next time the latest overpaid prima donna dives like a swan and rolls over half a dozen times, after a passing defender happened to cause a heavy draft of air turbulence. When Mercer went down, he really had been shot.

Joseph Mercer junior was only twelve when his father died. He regularly watched his father play for Tranmere, before he signed on for Ellesmere Port as a teenager. In 1932 at the age of eighteen he had signed for Everton, where he spent fifteen years, winning a championship medal and captaining the side, before having his own career interrupted by war like his father. After serving in the war he moved to Arsenal where he spent nine years captaining them to two FA Cup finals and



two league championships. He played twenty-seven times for England and also captained his country. After a serious leg injury finished his playing days, he had a successful career in management culminating in a caretaker manager role of England in the 1970s. He died in 1991.

And on the subject of gas attacks, its effects seemed to make men do the strangest things, as this report in the Chester Observer showed,

‘An ex-soldier, aged twenty-four, committed from Ellesmere Port, was indicted at Chester Assizes this week for bigamy, by marrying a woman of fifty years, a widow with twelve children, after deserting his wife. The court could not understand what prompted the strange match, but it took the lenient view that the effects of gas on foreign service might have been responsible, and passed sentence of three months’ imprisonment.’

*Chester Observer 30 November 1918*

57		Name.		Corps.		Rank.		Regtl. No.	
MERCER		Joseph P.		Middx. R.		Pte.		F/10	
				— —		* Sgt.		— —	
Medal.		Roll.		Page.		Remarks.			
VICTORY *		E/1/102 B.		2.					
BRITISH		do		do.					
15 STAR		E/1/3 A		1					
Theatre of War first served in		(1) France							
Date of entry therein		17.11.15.							
K. 1330.									

**Sgt. Joseph Mercer – Medal Card**

# DOCUMENTS

1913. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish  
of Blossmere Port in the County of Wiltshire

Column.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
431	June 25	Joseph Powell Mercer	23	bachelor	Bookbinder	32 Queen Street Blossmere Port	Samuel Mercer	Labourer
	1913	Ethel Daisy Breeze	19	spinster	—	32 Queen Street Blossmere Port	Edward Breeze	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church or after Banns by me,  
 This Marriage was solemnized between us, Joseph Powell Mercer in the Presence of us, Henry Mercer Herbert Dawson M.A.  
Ethel Daisy Breeze Cecily Woods vicar

## Joseph Mercer's Marriage Certificate

Administrative County of Wiltshire The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Page 9

Civil Parish		Municipal Borough		Municipal Ward		Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet		Rural Sanitary District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Ecclesiastical Parish or District	
of <u>Christ Church</u>						of <u>N<sup>o</sup> 4 Bebbington</u>						of <u>Merrill</u>		of <u>Wiltshire</u>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	No. of Houses in the Street or Lane	No. of Houses in the Lane	No. of Houses in the Lane	NAMES and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON. DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lame, Inebriate or Idiot	Employed	Employed	Employed	Employed
					Chas. Lee	Son			Scholar	Cheshire N <sup>o</sup> 4 Bebbington					
					John Lee				Iron Working help	" "					
52	Temp Bldg	1		4	Sam'l Lee	Head	single	27	Builder & Contractor	" "		X			
53	Temp Bldg	1		3	Joseph Mullington	Head	all	26	Market Gardener	" Eastham					
					Mary "	Wife	all	26	" "	" - Bathurst					
54	Temp Bldg	1		2	Chas Jones	Head	all	38	Iron Working	" N <sup>o</sup> 4 Bebbington		X			
					Sarah "	Wife	all	36	" "	" Gloucester Newport					
					William "	Son			" "	Cheshire N <sup>o</sup> 4 Bebbington					
					Chas "	"			" "	" "					
					Sarah Ann "	Daughter			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John "	"			" "	" "					
55	Temp Bldg	1		3	William Wright	Head	single	44	Agricultural Labourer	" "		X			
56	"	1		4	John Jones	Head	widow	28	Retired Blacksmith	Wiltshire Marlton					
					Ann Price	Daughter	single	28	Landress	Wiltshire Marlton					
					John Price	Son			" "	" Marlton					
57	Temp Bldg	1		3	Thos Spencer	Head	married	36	Cotton Porter	" N <sup>o</sup> 4 Bebbington		X			
					Mary Ann "	Wife			" Landress	" "					
					William "	Son			" "	" "					
					Edmund Harris	Widow			Scholar	Wiltshire Marlton					
58	Temp Bldg	1			Sam Yeatsley	"			away from home on Sunday	" "		X			
59	"	1			Henry Mercer	Head	married	28	Slater	Cheshire Bebbington		X			
					Martha "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Mary "	Daughter	single	22	" "	" "		X			
					Samuel "	Son			" Pipe Fitter	" "		X			
					James "	Daughter			" "	" "					
					James "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
60	Temp Bldg	1		4	John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					
					Thomas "	Son			" "	" "					
					John Lee	Head	all	18	" "	" "		X			
					Mary "	Wife			" "	" "					



Administrative County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the													Page			
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish			County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District			Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough		Town or Village or Hamlet				
of H. Bebbington		of Christ Church			of H. Bebbington			of H. Bebbington		of H. Bebbington		of Wirral		of H. Bebbington				
Doors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
No.	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Inhabited	Address	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	Profession or Occupation	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lunatic	(4) Inebriate	(5) Feeble-minded	
188	5 Falkenw. sq.		1		Samuel Mercer	Head	M	33	Labourer soapworks	Worker		H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Sarah	Wife	F	32	Landr. Wash.	Worker		H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Joseph Powell	Son	M	11				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Henry	Son	M	8				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Samuel	Son	M	7				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Freida	Daughter	F	4				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Christina Mary	Daughter	F	1				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
189	2 Falkenw. sq.		1		William Tomson	Head	M	23	Harbour Labourer	Worker		Brimstons Sheshire						
					Eizabeth	Wife	F	20				Leacombe Sheshire						
					John William	Son	M	19				Spurston Sheshire						
190	4 Falkenw. sq.		1		Robert Cursey	Head	M	26	Bricklayer	Worker		Bebington Sheshire						
					Priscilla	Wife	F	23				Hickham Sheshire						
					Lizzie	Daughter	F	3				Bebington Sheshire						
					Herbert Sumner	Boarder	M	25	Gasman	Worker		Greenport Sheshire						
					Robert Hopkins	Boarder	M	24	Gasman	Worker		Leicester						
191	6 Falkenw. sq.		1		Charles Shalecraft	Head	M	61	Gardener	Worker		Wiston Sheshire						
					Catherine	Wife	F	62				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Edith	Daughter	F	32	Gardener	Worker		Thornton Sheshire						
192	52 Bebbington Lane		1		Eizabeth Logson	Head	F	82		Own account		H. Bebbington Sheshire						
193	24 Mill Terrace		1		Samuel Webster	Head	M	55	Stone Quarryman			H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Lydia	Wife	F	16	Soap factory			H. Bebbington Sheshire						
194	26 Mill Terrace		1		Peter Evans	Head	M	25	General Shipper	Worker		H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Martha Ann	Wife	F	20	Landr. Wash.	Worker		H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Mary	Daughter	F	17				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Martha	Daughter	F	7				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Edith	Daughter	F	5				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					John	Son	M	3				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					Emmie	Daughter	F	2				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
					William	Son	M	2				H. Bebbington Sheshire						
Total of Schedules of Houses and Tenements with less than Five Rooms					Total of Males and Females..					15	14							

NOTE—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

Eng.

## Census 1901

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

Number of Schedules 19  
(To be filled up by the Enumerator and collector.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE						PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY		
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 5.)	Children born alive to former Marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one year."	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living	Children who have Died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Own account.	Whether Working at Home.					
William League	Head	49	Married	20	1	1	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Esther League	Wife	54	Married	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Martha League	Son	16	Single	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harold Dale	Son	25	Single	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joseph Denton	Boarder	24	Single	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joseph Mercer	Boarder	21	Single	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

I certify that—		
(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in the proper sex column.	(2) I have entered the names and surnames in Column 3 and 4 respectively, and have entered their ages with the total number of persons.	(3) After making the necessary corrections I have completed all entries on this Schedule with approval to be defective, and have appended such as appeared to be erroneous.
Initials of Enumerator	Signature	Date
W. League	W. League	12 Woodward St. Bebbington

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: W. League  
Postal Address: 12 Woodward St. Bebbington

## Census 1911