

THE TALE OF TWO BROTHERS

Walter Greenwood (1897-1976) and John (Jack) Greenwood (1899-1956)

At the age of 17, Walter had joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) and trained at Woolwich and Kingston-upon-Thames.

In 1917 he travelled through France, Italy and Egypt and joined the 52nd Lowland Division based in Palestine.

In 1918 and returned to serve in France, where he was badly gassed and spent many weeks in hospital before being passed as fit and rejoining his depot.

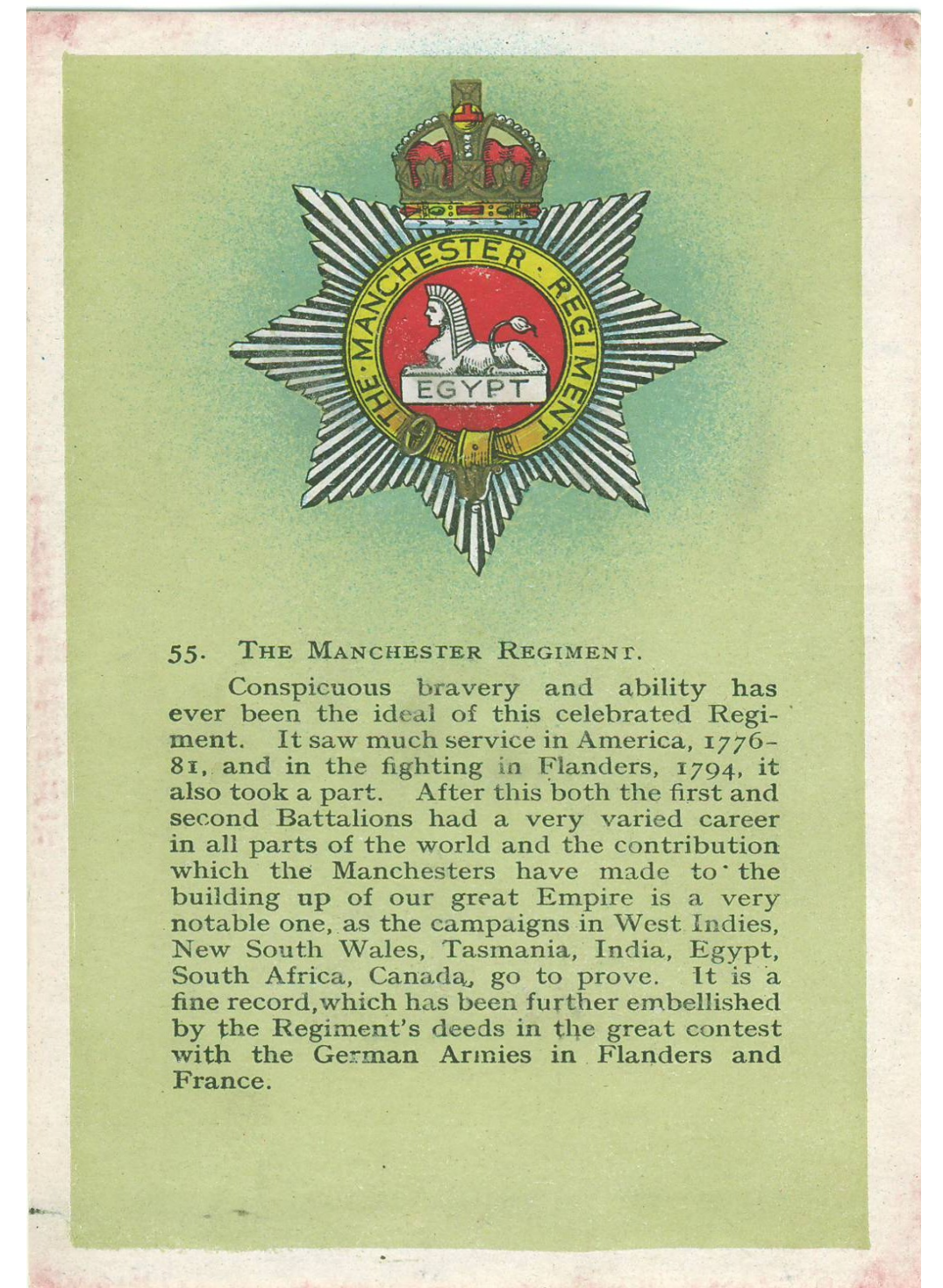
On Armistice Day, 11th November 1918, he had embarked on a ship which sailed to Russia the following day! He arrived at Murmansk with the 184th Field Ambulance and with his unit advanced about one thousand miles into Russia, before returning home in September 1919

The Expedition to Archangel was a Joint Allied (British, French, and American) operation during 1918 and 1919. Officially it was to stabilise the Eastern Front following the Russian Revolution and to safeguard the large concentration of military stores which had been sent to Archangel and other Western military interests in the area. Secretly it was intended to support the White Russians against the Bolsheviks. The Allied force succeeded in capturing Murmansk in the July of 1918 and then bombarded Archangel by air and sea, taking the city in August 1918. The Bolsheviks were driven from the area and a new local government was established, however by early 1919, Archangel was little more than an enclave in an otherwise almost entirely Bolshevik country and it was evacuated during August and September 1919.



Walter(Left) and Jack Greenwood

Jack Greenwood joined the Leeds Rifles in 1918 and after a short period of training went to France. During one engagement he became stuck in the mud and on being dragged out he sustained a hernia and had to go into hospital for an operation. After a short period of convalescence he then returned to France, where he took part in the advance towards Germany until the armistice. When he left the army in September 1919 he was serving in the Manchester Regiment.



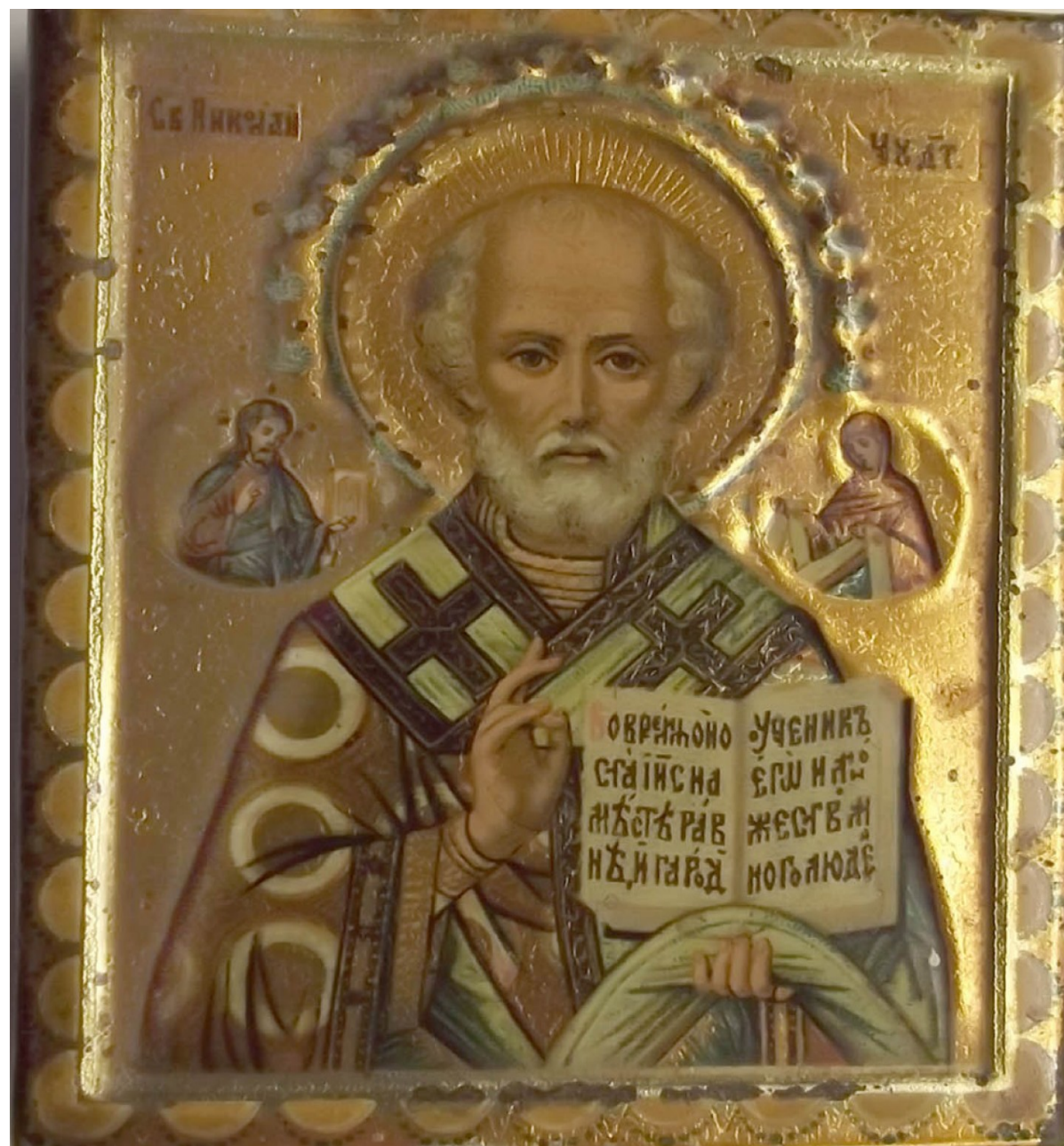
"An Earby soldier in Russia"



A wooden spoon (one of a pair) given to Walter in Russia and a water bottle believed to have been acquired in the Middle East.



A postcard from the Lowland Field Ambulance in Egypt



A Russian icon given to Walter as a souvenir

Upon discharge the brothers returned to the mill as weavers, Walter later worked as a grocer's assistant, and Jack as a driver. In 1930 they purchased Harrison's grocers business in Water Street and worked hard to make it the successful business people will still remember.



Walter Greenwood behind the counter of the grocers shop

During WWII they often displayed posters for national campaigns which raised funds for military equipment and at one time land at the rear of the shop premises (Island Square) housed a canteen for soldiers based in the Coronation Hall, both were members of the Earby A.R.P.



ARP outing



ARP outing to Tan Hill

During their military service Walter and Jack made a collection of regimental cap badges; a letter from Jack to his parents in August 1918, mentions that he has just acquired two more badges, one American and the other from South African. This collection formed part of the Earby Branch of the Royal British Legion which was donated to the Eden Camp museum when the Barnoldswick and Earby Branches of the Legion amalgamated in 2002.



Photographs of the Eden Camp display.