

## SMYTH Kenneth M.C.

Signaller Kenneth M.C Smyth – TR3/84806 51<sup>st</sup> (Training Reserve) Battalion Manchester Regiment

Kenneth was born on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1900 in Great Crosby. He died at home on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1918 aged 18 and is buried in Willaston Churchyard. His parents, James Montgomery and Ethel Smyth, lived at Moyheelan, (now No. 49) Hooton Road, Willaston. In the 1911 Census, his father was recorded as being a Collector of Poor Rates in the Parish of Liverpool. There were two other siblings and a servant living in the house.

In England and Wales the **poor rate** was a tax on property levied in each parish, which was used to provide poor relief. It was collected under both the Old Poor Law and the New Poor Law. It was absorbed into 'general rate' local taxation in the 1920s, and has continuity with the currently existing Council Tax.

A considerable reorganisation of the reserve infantry battalions took place on 1 September 1916. Before this date, most of the infantry regiments contained one or more reserve battalions of the regular and new armies. Recruits would be posted to these battalions for basic training, before they were posted to an active service unit. With the introduction of conscription, the regimental system simply could not cope with numbers. A new structure was put into place: the Training Reserve. The local nature of recruitment was abandoned and the entire system centralised. The Training Reserve was more than 200,000 soldiers.

# BRITONS



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