Ad's how we did it

The perfect shop for the man, or boy, about town



GRAY'S Outfitters was a major name in Blackburn for many a decade when it came to clothing the man about town.

This advert from 1957, as East approached advised there was plenty of choice for the fashion conscious young man.

The store, at 67, Penny Street, opposite The Rialto, offers worsted or gaberdine, single or double breasted suits, as well as hacking style, with two side vents, priced from £5 17s 6d. Boys suits, in sizes from one to 10, cost from 69/6, while men's two piece suits, in fine tweeds or worsted, were nine quineas.

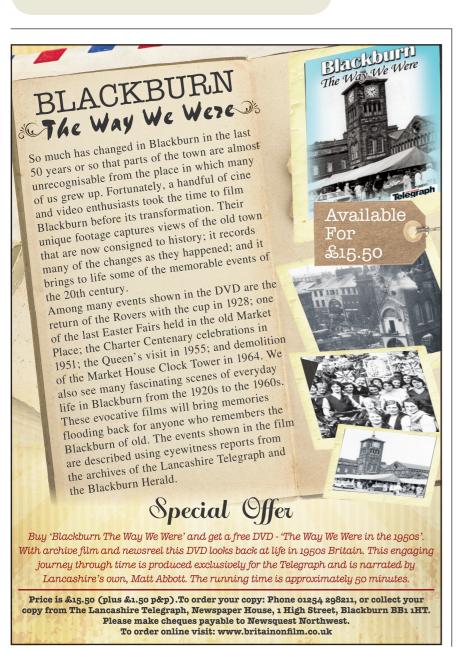
Gray's was also outfitters to Blackburn Grammar School.

CONFLICT



HEROES RETURN: Wounded soldiers arrive by train to Queen Mary's military hospital in Whalley during WWI

The men who had lives in their hands



NEW book tells the story of Lancashire market gardener Joseph Blackburn, originally exempted from fighting in the First World War, only for the ruling to be overturned.

The decision cost the father of a young son and daughter his life – with the British Army sweeping decisively through northern France, in 1918, he was killed in action, close to the river Somme, on August 24.

Joseph has no known grave and his name is remembered in the military cemetery at Vis-en-Artois.

Author David Hewitt has trawled the national archives to uncover the details behind the sad story and came across links with East Lancashire, The decision to exempt Joseph

The decision to exempt Joseph from the war, because of his vital job in growing produce was made by a military tribunal and backed by another in Preston, made up of several gentlemen with connections to East Lancashire.

But it was a central tribunal in London who decided he was not really a market gardener, but a hawker of fruit and vegetables and sent him to the Western Front.

So incensed was the Thornton tribunal, the councillors went on strike and throughout the summer of 1917, they refused to hear a single military case.

What they had done was follow the example of a tribunal at Clayton-le-Moors, which had first been convened in December, 1915.

They had been moved to strike after discovering their non-exemption ruling on one claimant, Frank Bickerstaff, a book keeper, of Hygiene Place at Clayton, had been overturned by the Ministry of Munitions.

But tribunal panel could be overturned by London



ON THE PANEL: Sir James Travis-Clegg and, right, John Duckworth

By GILL JOHNSON gill.johnson@nqnw.co.uk

They resolved to adjourn until they had received an adequate explanation and wrote to the recruitment officer in Accrington to explain their stance.

The military tribunal, which

The military tribunal, which sat at Preston during the First World War, heard appeals from urban districts including Blackburn, Burnley, Accrington and Clitheroe, as well as rural areas.

Its chairman was James
Openshaw, a prize winning
fencer as a youngster, who was
a barrister and lived at
Hothersall Hall in Ribchester,
which he had inherited from
his father. He received a
knighthood in the New Year's
Honours of 1928.

Then there was James Travis-Clegg, an Alderman of Lancashire, magistrate and income tax commissioner, who lived at Whalley Abbey, in a country house, built in the ruins of the 13th Cistercian monastery.

monastery.

He was also a member of the
Committee of Visitors of the

county asylum at Whalley, which had opened in 1915, but was turned into a military hospital, Queen Mary's, during the Great War. Sir James was chairman of

Sir James was chairman of the extra comforts and entertainments fund there – while also a director of a company in the village that made artillery shells. Also on the tribunal was

Also on the tribunal was Rowland Rawlinson from Rawtenstall who interests were said to include cotton and John Duckworth. a cotton manufacturer, who became MP

for Blackburn in 1923.
King George V and Queen
Mary visited his factory in 1913
to officially open a recreation
ground on land close to the mill,
which he had donated.

Then there was Sir Reginald
Tatton who owned Astley Hall
in Chorley and Fred Thomas of
Burnley, a senior official of the
Burnley Weavers Association.

Joseph, 1917, written by David

Hewitt, is published by Matador and costs £8.99.

■David will be giving a talk on his book at Blackpool Central Library, on Monday, April 24 at 3pm.

3pm. Entry is £2.