

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 guineas.

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

BLACKBURN The Way We Were

So much has changed in Blackburn in the last 50 years or so that parts of the town are almost unrecognisable from the place in which many of us grew up. Fortunately, a handful of cine and video enthusiasts took the time to film Blackburn before its transformation. Their unique footage captures views of the old town that are now consigned to history; it records many of the changes as they happened; and it brings to life some of the memorable events of the 20th century.

Among many events shown in the DVD are the return of the Rovers with the cup in 1928; one of the last Easter Fairs held in the old Market Place; the Charter Centenary celebrations in 1951; the Queen's visit in 1955; and demolition of the Market House Clock Tower in 1964. We also see many fascinating scenes of everyday life in Blackburn from the 1920s to the 1960s. These evocative films will bring memories flooding back for anyone who remembers the Blackburn of old. The events shown in the film are described using eyewitness reports from the archives of the Lancashire Telegraph and the Blackburn Herald.

Special Offer

Buy 'Blackburn The Way We Were' and get a free DVD - 'The Way We Were in the 1950s'. With archive film and newsreel this DVD looks back at life in 1950s Britain. This engaging journey through time is produced exclusively for the Telegraph and is narrated by Lancashire's own, Matt Abbott. The running time is approximately 50 minutes.

Available For £15.50

Price is £15.50 (plus £1.50 p&p). To order your copy: Phone 01254 298211, or collect your copy from The Lancashire Telegraph, Newspaper House, 1 High Street, Blackburn BB1 1HT. Please make cheques payable to Newsquest Northwest. To order online visit: www.britainonfilm.co.uk

A 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 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
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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 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.

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 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 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.

Entry is £2.