

## **Bury Choral Society concert, 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 – *The Great War: Armistice***

### **Major Walter Scott MC AFC, 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers**

*Walter Sommerville Scott's story is very different. He had a privileged upbringing. His father was a solicitor based in Manchester and he went to public school at Uppingham. On 6<sup>th</sup> August 1914, two days after Britain declared war on Germany, Walter Scott joined up at Cross Lane, Salford. He was just 18. He was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers.*

*The Lancashire Fusilier Territorials were the first volunteers to serve abroad and by late September they were in Egypt, relieving regulars who left to fight in France, and saw action against Turkish and German forces threatening the Suez Canal.*

*From Egypt the 1<sup>st</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> joined other battalions and regulars of the Fusiliers at Gallipoli, landing there on 5<sup>th</sup> May a few days after the famous Lancashire Landings which led to six Fusiliers being awarded the Victoria Cross. On 6<sup>th</sup> June, during the Third Battle of Krithia, Walter was wounded in the arm and chest and evacuated to Alexandria in Egypt. After recovering he returned to the front before being evacuated home due to dysentery.*

*In March 1916 he was seconded into the Royal Flying Corps, and despite being promoted to Captain in the Fusiliers, he was transferred to the Flying Corps as a Lieutenant and served in the No: 17 Squadron in the Balkan theatre of war until November 1917. Flying regular sorties, including one when he was attacked while looking for a location to land a "spy" and another when he was shot down by German ace Rudolph von Eschwege, took their toll.*

*Returning to Britain with the squadron after the Germans withdrew their aircraft from the Balkans, he appeared before a medical board who recorded: "Has done 15 months over the lines. He is neurasthenic and shows all physical signs of it. Also he is done for at the moment". Walter*

*Scott was suffering battle stress after 500 hours flying and was restricted to Home Service with limited flying duties.*

*Walter Scott ended the war as a Major in the RAF from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1918, but was still recorded on the Army List. He had been awarded the Military Cross and Bar, for conspicuous gallantry in action, the Air Force Cross and Greek Military Cross. He survived the whole of the war – but it took its toll and he died in 1931, aged 35, younger than Willie Roberts.*



The story of Walter Scott was one of four stories of local Bury people, or enlisted men in the Lancashire Fusiliers, presented as part of Bury Choral Society's concert. Walter's granddaughter, Susan Bolton, attended the concert.