Oatley Heritage Group Projects.

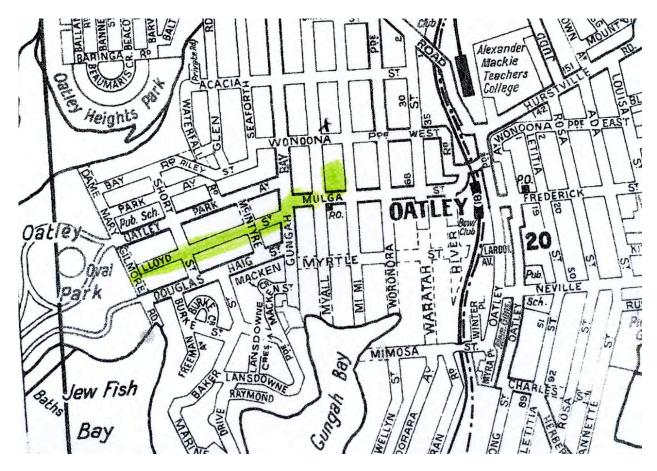
Date Title

May 2016 Oatley War Service Homes Lloyd Street

By Betty Goodger

War Services Homes in West Oatley including Lloyd Street

I was asked to research the War Service Homes in Lloyd Street, West Oatley. (See Gregory's Street Directory of Sydney Map 38 45th ed 1981)



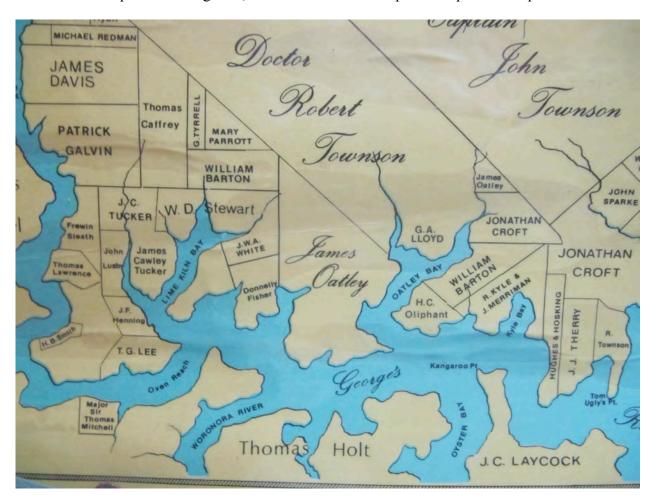
After a delightful afternoon exploring the street with Rodger Robertson, I began, as I usually do, by consulting the Map of the Parish St George in the County of Cumberland (4th ed) 1934, as it shows the first person to own the land.

PARISH MAP

Australia inherited its method of land holding from English law which extends back to medieval times when the king owned all land and granted portions to his subjects. We still speak of Crown land. For administration the land was divided into counties; counties were divided into hundreds; hundreds were divided into parishes. These parishes are not to be confused with church parishes although they often overlap. Governor Arthur Phillip named the County of Cumberland in 1788 and the Parish of St George was in use in 1823. (See KHS Newsletter November/December 2005 pp 3-4 The St George District by B. Goodger)

FIRST LAND GRANT It is such a cumbersome map, consisting of two sheets, each 106 x 69 cm., that I sometimes use Bryan Thomas' map from his book, The Original Colonial

Landholders of Sydney from 1792. (Published in 1982.) He simplifies an 1892 map It shows that the land which Lloyd Street traverses was granted to Donnelly Fisher in 1876. Although we continue to speak of land grants, after 1831 there was a purchase price to be paid.



The date of 1876 for the grant is stated by Bryan Thomas in his book. But Fisher's grant, (275-246 Pt 46 of 94 hectares) is in a list of grants not dated in Geoff Cannon's work, The First Title Holders of Land in the County of Cumberland Vol 1 pp 229 et al Fisher also had land granted in the Parish of Gordon and several in the Parish of Mt Colah.

DONNELLY FISHER Donnelly Fisher (1850-1919) was a solicitor who lived at St Leonards and North Sydney. His mother was Thomasine Wentworth, so he was a grandson of William Charles Wentworth, the famous statesman and newspaper editor. He is buried in St Thomas' graveyard, North Sydney.

Fisher probably sold the land on and eventually it came into the possession of Myles McRae. He was perhaps the Alan Bond of his day. (Myles McRae 1845-1926 Mayor and alderman of Kogarah Council 1886-1897 and M.L.A. for Morpeth 1889-1891). He lived in the St George area at Bonnie Doon in Arncliffe and Kintail in Penshurst and deserves a full talk on his interesting and sometime scandalous life.)

MYLES McRAE Myles McRae started out as a produce merchant but was before long, a large scale land speculator along the Illawarra Line and owned much land in Oatley West. The portion we are looking at was offered for sale as Como Lakes Estate. I found an

advertisement in the SMH of 5 June 1918 calling for tenders for laying water pipes on the Como Lakes Estate. The Propeller of 5 December 1919 p.5 advertised Como Lakes' (sic) Estate for auction on Saturday 6 December 1919.





COMO LAKES ESTATE

The subdivision plan of the Como Lakes Estate shows the area offered for sale divided into Lots 1-145.

THE NAME COMO LAKES ESTATE. Why w

it chosen? The real estate agents' hype urged buyers with the enticements that the Estate was only 11 miles from the City - the time from Central by express was only 27 minutes and by ordinary train only 44 minutes. - It was only 700 yards from Oatley Station and only 400 yards, by water, from Como Station. - it adjoins the fifth best park in the metropolis!



THE NAME OF THE STREETS.

Penshurst Park Avenue – because Oatley Park was called that at the time (1919) Lloyd George Street – obviously chosen to honour the wartime Prime Minister of England. Lloyd George lived from 1863 to 1945 and was MP for Caernarvon from 1890 to 1944. He was Prime Minister from 1916 to 1922. He was made Earl of Dwyfor.

Lloyd George Street does not appear in Sands Directory of Sydney until 1923, indicating that no houses existed with householders to be listed before that date.

Hurstville Council shortened the name to Lloyd Street in July 1922. (HHS Newsletter Vol 3 no 65 January 1992 p.6)

Douglas Haig Street – to honour Douglas Haig, first Earl of Bermersyde, who lived from 1861 to 1928. He was the British Field –Marshall who led the offensive in France in August 1918. He had been the Commander-in–chief in France from 1915 to 1919.

Short Street The council Rate Book for 1919-1921 describes it as a dead end, so it had not yet been extended to Bay Street.

McIntyre Street I did not find any clues.

WAR SERVICE HOMES COMMISSION Now we come to the War Service Homes Commission. The War Service Homes Commission was set up soon after the Armistice when Senator E.D. Millen, Minister for Repatriation, introduced the Bill in December 1918, with the aim of providing homes for veterans and parents of deceased soldiers. The Act was passed in Dec. 1918. The commission came into force 6 March 1919. The Commission had the power to buy land and building materials and to provide a maximum payment of £700 (raised to £800 on 1920)

FIRST WAR SERVICE HOME

John Johnson, in his thesis "No Small Undertaking" (A very critical study of the War Service Homes Commission), states that Mr Denison Miller, the governor of the Commonwealth Bank, laid the foundation stone for the first War Service Home in Kennedy Avenue, Belmore on 21 July 1919. The Commonwealth Bank was intended to be part of the Scheme.

The house, at 32 Kennedy Avenue, Belmore was completed by September 1919 for Driver and Mrs Baxter. (Pictorial History of Canterbury/Bankstown, by Joan Lawrence 1999 p.75) The Commission was interested in the Como Lakes Estate. The subdivision map shows the area divided into Lots 1-1345.

Their surveyor inspected and reported on 25/11/1919. He stated that the area was bush and recommended that they purchase Lots 51-59 on the north side of Lloyd George Street and Lots 90-99 on the South side. He noted that the shopping facilities were bad. There were no shops at Oatley. Penshurst was 3 minutes away by train.

PURCHASE OF LOTS IN LLOYD STREET

However, the subdivision plan for Como Lakes Estate for the auction sale on Saturday 6 December 1919 shows that the War Service Homes Commission purchased Lots 76-83 on the south side of Lloyd George Street from Gungah Bay Road to McIntyre Street (8 blocks) and lots 84 – 99 from McIntyre Street to Short Street. (16 blocks.)

(ML Z/SP/N13/1) and National Archives G46/5355 Group 45

PRICE OF LLOYD STREET BLOCKSThe War Service Homes Commission bought those land blocks from Myles McRae for £1536/5/-. This was £1/10/- per foot. The total area was 4 acres 24 perches. (Title Vol 3100 Folio 187 Como Lakes Estate) There was a condition of confidentiality in not revealing his name. (National Archives SP859/1 G46/5355)

FIRST EX-SERVICEMEN TO BUY LAND

To find out when the first War Services Home was built, I began with Hurstville Council's Rate and Valuation Books. Names from 1919-1921, 1921-1923, 1923-1926 are included. In the Rate Book for 1919 – 1922 (Microfilm.Reel 23) people paying rates and giving their address as Lloyd George St were:

Lot 76 P.W. Blumer.

77 A. McNamara

78 C.J. Davies 79 F.C. Bradshaw 80 W..H. Numes (later Nunns) 81 L.J. Ryan 82 P.J. Cosgrave McIntyre Street P. Green 84 85 D. and G. Gunn, 86 A. Gunn. 87 W. Duckett 88 R.F.C. Bradley 91 W. Murphy 95 R.E. Murray So 14 veterans had taken up land but no houses were yet built. The following rate book for the years 1921-1923, show some changes Lot 76 Blumer has gone and the rate payer is H.A.Sneddon 77 is still A. McNamara. He has a house named Epsom. (He stays until 1926) 78 Is still C.J. Davies 79 Bradshaw is gone. Le Transloy is the ratepayer 80 V.P. Waddle 81 Is Still L.J. Ryan and his house is named Ideloo 82 Is still P.C. Cosgrave and his house is named Brighton McIntyre Street 83 is still P. Green 85 is now G. Gunn with a house Essex A. Gunn with a house, Borve 86 87 W. Duckett 88 R.F.C. Bradley with house, Malone 89 Kennedy 90 H.E. Bindoff 91 W. Murphy 92 D.J. Mindhan 93 N.H. Hammond 95 R.E.Murray Hurstville Rate Book 1926 (microfische)

Lot 76	Lees, James Avoca (Lyden, George, Clerk is gone)	£800		
77	Palmer, Eric James (McNamara is gone) Epsom	£750		
78	Davies, Owen James Clerk	£750		
79	Boulter, James M. Preston (from Kayser, Arnold Cladd	painter)	Kossur	£750
80	Waddell, Victor Roy Collector St Elmo	£795		
81	Setter, William John The Nest	£750		
82	Cosgrove, Philip C Commercial Traveller Brighton	£750		

83 Conley, Thomas Cyril Poland Mechanist Mulumba	
Lot 84 Salmon, Nowell Bartlett (Corner plot) Salesman	£750
Lot 85 Gain, Garth Harry to Wilton, William John Kossu	r £750
86 Jones, William Thomas Carpenter	£750
Lot 87 Duckett, William Motor Mechanic Astor	£750
Lot 88 Duckworth, James Malon labourer	£750
Lot 89 Parkins, R J.	£750
Lot 90 Potts, Stanley Archibald	£750
Lot 91 Murphy, William postal assistant	£750
Lot 92 Auld, Alexander Joiner Caledonia	£775
Lot 93 Hammond, Norman Henry Clerk	£
Lot 94 Thomas, Harry Stevedore	£750
Lot 95 Murray, Edward Munro	£750
Lot 96 Harley, David Victor	
Lot 97 Belcher. Cecil James	£750
Lot 98 Hope, Paul Cyril	
Lot 99 Poole, Charles Augustine	

Before numbers were assigned to houses, everyone named his house. I have made a list of those used but only one, Caledonia, has lasted. This house is now owned by the de Meur family who have enlarged their house but with great sensitivity and kept the name.

MRS JOYCE McMILLAN

Later that afternoon we visited a vibrant, talented lady, Mrs Joyce McMillan at her villa in Padstow, where I enjoyed seeing her paintings, poems and copper-work. She gave us photographs and a copy of her reminiscences of her early life in Oatley... and talked of her former home. (Extracts from these reminiscences were published in Oatley Writes ... A Souvenir of Oatley's 150th anniversary 1833-1983, p.45.) She was born in 1926 at the house, Caledonia, now no 33 Lloyd Street and grew up there.





SANDY AULD

Her father, Alexander, (Sandy) Auld, had migrated from Scotland. He



met another Scottish migrant, Mary and they married. Shortly after, the Great War of 1914-1919 began and he enlisted in the AIF, serving overseas.. This entitled him to a War Services Home. The Bill of Sale is dated August 1922 and in 1923 he moved his family to the house they named Caledonia. It is still so named. The debt to the War Services Home Commission was paid off as a rent of £1 a week.

The house was built of brick, the roof of unglazed tiles. It had two bedrooms so Joy and her sister shared one, her brother, Hughie, slept on the verandah. Sandy added a verandah room at the rear and a fernery at the side.

The front fence consisted of one board, so low that cows could step over it, so most families added a four-foot rail to keep the bovines at bay.

Sandy lived in his War Service home till his death at the age of 65, Mary till the loss of a leg to diabetes meant she could not live alone. The 1929 Rate Book of Hurstville Council lists the house, Caledonia, as Lot 92 and valued at £800.

The house was sold to Mr Peter de Meur in 1978 and the family still live there. They enlarged the house to suit their needs, as they had 4 children. It a charming residence but is still recognizable as a War Service home.

CECIL JAMES BELCHER

The last house in the section we are considering is no 43. It is weatherboard, painted white and Mrs Betty Belcher lives there. Her father-in-law, Cecil James Belcher, obtained the house as his War Service home in 1927. He had served in the British army but joined the AIF. Mr Belcher had 3 daughter and 2 sons. One son, Harold, was born in the house. He later married a local girl, Betty, and they continued to live in no 43.



The Hurstville Rate Book for 1929 lists C.J.Belcher Lot 97 living in a cottage valued at £775 and in a War Services home.

5. 16 Ningmers SV Padstaw 2211 97721402 I gay auld M'Millan, was born by gas light at upm 27 th Sebruary 1926 in 33 floyd St. Oatley. watts. Palmer Davies Tindlay. Setters Semon. Lausdown ashdown mc In Engre Dr. M'Intyre dr. alen Ton Salmon Kinley Swetman Gains Binds Jones Lowler Cubentson Roberts Hunst. Stanes. duchworth. Williams Uttings Mc Millan Shehards Patts Martin. andrews. murphy. Peper and - Se Mure. Isley - Eldonshaw. Hammand. Clank Thomas. Giles Rawson Islay Goote Chaen-Moahes ceanks Belcher elevens Gennis Count Poules Falconer Short Sr. andits.

Joy (Auld) McMillan provided a list of all the residents who lived on both sides of Lloyd Street, dated probably at about 1940. (Lists from Sands Directory of Sydney are provided for 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929.)

BUS SERVICE REG LAWLER According to Joy's list, at no 21, (Lot 86) lived Reg Lawler who ran the first bus service in Oatley West. The 20-seater ran from Mortdale Station to the corner of Lloyd and Short Streets. Victor Reginald Lawler was a late comer to Lloyd street. Lot 86 had been held by Alexander Gunn in 1923, and in 1925 by William Jones. I believe Reg came in 1931. (He had begun in 1923 with a bus run from Rockdale to Tom Ugly's Point and lived at various addresses in Kogarah.) I found it difficult to pinpoint Lawler's address. The

electoral rolls of 1933-5 show Victor Reginald and Lillian Lawler living at 50 Lloyd Street, which would put him in the block after Short Street, running down hill to the Park, not on the land purchased by the War Service Homes Commission. Reg and Lillian Lawler had 2 sons and 1 daughter. Their second son, Les, served in the Australian Navy on the corvette HMAS Pirie from 1943 to 1946. Although he survived, he was to die in 2002 from the effects of the asbestos dust used in the ships.

LIL & REG LAWLER REAR 1928 RED 21 SEATER MO 138

PHOTO COURTESY! LES LAWLER



STEVE ROBERTS Next door in no 23, lived Steve Roberts, who worked on the bus as conductor. Steve later took over the route when Lawler transferred to a different route and lived in Algernon Street, Oatley.. where Reg died on 12 June 1957 at the age of 69.

Alec Leach wrote about the Buses of Oatley in 1996 and I particularly liked the story of Picture Night on Tuesdays during the war years. Reg would collect and deliver the audience to the Radio Theatre in Letitia Street, then nip over to Lloyd Street to play cards with his mates, and return in time to pick up the patrons at the end of the show.

DUCKWORTH At no 25 (lot 88) by 1929 J. Duckworth was living. Mrs Duckworth was 90 at the time of Oatley's 150th Anniverary in 1983. She reminisced about coming here from Newtown and finding cows jumped over one's front fence! "She remembers often walking to Hurstville to do the shopping on Friday nights. She pushed a pram all the way. Diment's Store was a big attraction. Mr Lawler, the bus driver, would take a group to Mortdale to the pictures if they wanted an outing."

HARRY THOMAS In no 37 (lot 94) from 1926, lived Harry Thomas,. Did his son, Neville Thomas and his wife, Gladys, live on in the house? Norm and Beryl Butters were

friends of Neville. When he was leaving his home for a nursing home in Gerringong, he gave them two pretty painted china plated (handwork of his wife) These were prizes at our Heritage Group's party on 2015.

OTHER WAR SERVICE HOMES

Lloyd Street was not the only site where the War Service Homes Commission bought land. I did not find any neat list of the purchases in the archives! But I found sites in nearby Myall Street and Mulga Street, purchased on January 18, 1921. One of those returned soldiers was Walter Lancelot Oscar Mallard, who was awarded the Military Cross.

Throughout 2015 we celebrated those young Australians who fought at Gallipoli and later in France and several made their homes in Oatley after their return to their homeland.

SOURCES USED.

Parish Map of St George 4th ed 1934

The Original Colonial Landholders of Sydney from 1792, by Bryan Thomas 1982

Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers Vol. II 1922 p1317 and Vol IV 1923-24 pp323, 339 for Annual Reports of War Service Homes Commission (State Library NQ328.9401/14)

Oatley subdivision Plans in Mitchell Library Z/SP/N13/1

Hurstville Council Rate and Valuation Books 1919-1922 Reel 23 microfilm 1926 microfische

Johnson, John "No Small Undertaking" The Disastrous History of the Commonwealth War Service Homes Commission.

National Archives re Como Lakes Estate purchase

Sands Directory of Sydney 1919-1930

Oatley Writes - A Souvenir Publication of Oatley's 150th Anniversary 1833-1983 p.45 Childhood in Lloyd Street, by Joy Auld, p.42 Mrs Duckworth's reminiscences, p.38 Reg Lawler's bus route

Hurstville Historical Society Newsletter Vol 3 no 65 January 1992 p.6 re naming Lloyd Street

Leach, Alec Buses in Oatley IN Oatley Historical and Heritage Society Vol. 2 28 November 1996 Oatley Public Transport

B. Goodger 29 January 2016

Sands Directory of Sydney

1923 1925 1927

Blumer, Paul W Rankin, George Lydon, George H

McNamara, Andrew McNamara, A. McNamara, A.

Davies, Owen Davies, O Davies, O

Bradshaw, Frederick Keyser, A Keyser, A

Ryan, Leo Sutton, William J. Waddell, Vic. R.

McIntyre Street

Cosgrave, Phillip Cosgrave Setter

Conley

O'Rourke, Francis Barrows, Alan W. Salmon, N.B.

Dands, George Kneen, Douglas Gain, A "Kossler"

Gunn, Alexander Jones, William Jones, William Duckett, William Duckett, William "Nestor" Duckett, William Bradley Robert Goodman, William Parkin, Reginald T Bundoff, Harold Evans, Cecil Potts. Stanley A Murphy, William Audet, Thomas A. Murphy, William Auld. Alexander Hammond, Norman Potts, Stanley A Hammond, Norman H Murray, Reginald E. Auld, Alexander

Thomas, Henry F Murray, Reginald E.

Munro

Cohen, H.D.V. Poole, C.A.

Short Street

Sands 1929 Duckett, W.C. "Nestor"

Lees, James Duckworth, J.

McNamara, Andrew Epsom Parkin, Reginald T
Davies Owen Potts, Stanley A
Kayer, A Preston Murphy, William
Waddell, Vic. R St Elmo Auld, Alexander

The Nest Hammond, Norman H.

McIntyre Street Murray, Rex Edward "Munro"

Cosgrave, P.C. Brighton Cohen, H.D.V. Conley, Thomas Malumba Belcher, C.J. Salmon, N.B. Poole, C.A. Grossler, J Short Street

NAMES OF HOUSES IN LLOYD STREET

No 1 Avoca

3 Epsom

Setter, William J

- 7 Preston
- 9 St Elmo
- 11 The Nest/ Ideloo
- 13 Brighton
- 14 Mulumba
- 17 Essex
- 18 Kossur
- 21 Borve
- 23 Nestor/ Astor

- 33 Caledonia Still in use today!
- 39 Munro

$1938\ Electoral\ Roll\ for\ Lloyd\ Street\ {\it showing\ house\ numbers\ },\ names\ and\ occupations\mbox{-}\ HD\ is\ home\ duties.}$

LLOYD STREET 1938

Ashdown	Cecil Alfred	15	accountant
Ashdown	Ethel Annie	15	HD
Audet	Jack Sydney	"Balmoral"	electrician
Audet	Jane Elizabeth	"Balmoral"	HD
Auld	Alexander	33	joiner
Auld	May	33	HD
Belcher	Cecil James	0	brickmaker
Belcher	Winifred Minnie	0	HD
Bird	Thomas Edward	19	foreman
Bird	Vivian Sylvia	19	HD
Boulter	James Madezey	7	waterside worker
Boulter	Mary Elizabeth	7	HD
Burman	Madge Graban	1	hd
Burman	Stuart John	1	theatrical employee
Clark	Ada Winifred	44	HD
Clark	Thomas Henry Jnr	44	engineer
Clark	John Darling	38	engineer
Clark	Julia Octavia	38	HD
Ilsley	Henry Vivian Lancelot	36	labourer
Ilsley	Ivy Lillian	36	HD
Jones	Elizabeth	21	HD
Jones	Mary Downie	21	tailoress
Lansdell	Elizabeth Florence	13	HD
Lansdell	George Harry	13	sawyer
Lansdell	Ronald Clice George	13	labourer
Lawler	Jack Holt	20	truck driver
Lawler	Lillian	20	HD
Lawler	Victor Reginald	20	bus proprietor
Murphy	Alice Ann	31	HD
Murphy	William	31	postal assistant
New	Amy Frances	27	HD
New	James Frederick	27	carpenter
Palmer	Alice Kathleen	3	HD

Palmer	Eric Frederick	3	lift attendant
Petty	Abraham Charles	36	wood machinist
Piper	Estelle Harriet	34	HD
Piper	Roy Arnold	34	compositor
Poole	Alice Mary	47	HD
Poole	Charles Augustine	47	clerk
Pope	Gladys Virginia	39	HD
Pope	Raymond	39	bus driver
Cuthbertson	Albert John	24	commercial traveller
Cuthbertson	Jessie Steward	24	HD
Davies	Owen Jones	5	clerk
Davies	Kathleen Casper	5	HD
Duckworth	Henrietta	25	HD
Duckworth	James	25	labourer
Elmshirst	Harry William Frederick	23	rly porter
Elmshirst	, Kathleen Charlotte	23	HD
Falconer	John Harold	50	motor mechanic
Falconer	Winifred Ethel	50	HD
Foote	Irene Constance	42	HD
Foote	William Albert James	42	labourer
Giles	Ida Agnes	40	HD
Giles	Hector William	40	printer
Gill	Elizabeth	29	HD
Gill	Kenneth Ron	29	labourer
Grossler	Arthur Oliver	17	labourer
Guhl	Karl Joseph	0	clerk
Guhl	Lillian Margaret	0	HD
Hammond	Norman Henry	35	clerk
Hammond	Theresa Alma	35	HD
Randall	Nancy Valda	41	HD
Randall	Robert William	41	fibrous fixer
Salmon	Margaret Wright	17	HD
Salmon	Nowell Bartlett	17	salesman
Setter	Annie Olevia	11	HD
Setter	William John	11	packer
Shepherd	Minnie Caroline	28	HD
Shepherd	Robert William Henry	28	saw doctor
Stevens	William Thomas	46	woodworker
Stevens	Florence May	46	HD
Stone	Henry James	26	clerk
Stone	Lucy	26	HD
Stone	Mabel Emma	26	HD
Thomas	Gladys Emily	37	HD
Thomas	Henry Frederick	37	stevedore
Trotman	Albert Edward	22	sigwrite

Trotman	Alice	22	HD
Trotman	Doris Isobel	22	machinist
Trotman	Norman Harry	22	clerk
Uebel	Emma Louisa	46	HD
Uebel	Lillian Agnes	46	HD
Uebel	Claude Alfred	46	process worker
Maude	Gwendoline Caroline	54	HD
Maude	John William	54	fitters assistant

Some aerial shots of Lloyd and surrounding streets





