

In Memory of
Major JAMES ARTHUR RIGBY

Royal Army Medical Corps

who died on 25 December 1916

**Husband of Mrs. James Arthur Rigby,
of 15, Winckley Square, Preston.**

Remembered with honour
LONGTON (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Name: RIGBY, JAMES ARTHUR

Initials: J A

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Major

Regiment/Service: Royal Army Medical Corps

Date of Death: 25/12/1916

Additional information: Husband of Mrs. James Arthur Rigby, of 15, Winckley Square, Preston.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: 1.

Cemetery: LONGTON (ST. ANDREW) CHURCHYARD

Dr. Major JAMES ARTHUR RIGBY

Preston Guardian Page 5 30th December, 1916

Physician who examined 50,000 recruits.

Impressive funeral service at parish church.

The death occurred at 5 o'clock at his residence in Winkley Square on Christmas morning of Dr. James Arthur Rigby. He was attending his duties on the Medical Board of the 47th Area on Thursday last, but on Friday was down with a sharp attack of influenza. Pneumonia supervened, with fatal results.

Dr. J. Rigby was one of the most prominent members of the Preston Town Council since his election for the Fishwick Ward in 1909. He contested the ward in the interests of the Ratepayers Association, of which body he was the chairman. For some time he was chairman of the Health Committee. He frequently contributed to '*The Lancet*'.

He was surgeon to the Preston Volunteer Artillery (now 2nd West Lancashire R. F. A.) for 20 years and retired with the rank of Major in the R. A. M. C. and was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

At the outbreak of war he volunteered for active service, and was appointed to the recruiting staff at Preston, taking full charge of the examination of recruits of the 47th Regimental District until the formation of the Medical Board. He calculated that he had personally examined over 50,000 recruits in his daily services at the Public Hall.

The internment took place at St. Andrew's, Longton, the funeral being of a military character.

The cortege left the house in Winkley Square about 10.30 and the service began in Preston Parish Church at 10.45. The coffin, a plain one with brass mountings, was borne on a gun carriage. It was enveloped in the Union Jack, the officer's hat, gloves and sword, as well as one of the wreaths were placed on it.

On arrival at the Parish Church the coffin was carried down the centre aisle by the soldier bearers, to Greig's "Funeral March".

At the conclusion of the service the police, under Superintendent Whitby, caused traffic to be suspended in the vicinity of the Parish Church whilst the trumpeters sounded the "Last Post". The journey to Longton was commenced a little before half-past eleven, only the bearers attending of the military party. At Longton St. Andrew's Canon Butler conducted the committal service.

Dr. Major Rigby is buried between graves 1 and 2 in the new graveyard by the vestry's rear door.

Penwortham St. Mary's Church Magazine *January, 1917* *Page viii*

Buried at Longton:- December 28th James Arthur Rigby aged 67 years

Longton St. Andrew's Burial Register

PR 3007 / 1 / 7

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James Arthur Rigby	Preston	December 28 th 1916	67 years
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No entry has been found on the "Soldiers Died in the Great War" CD-RoM, as it is thought that with Major Rigby's death being at 'home' it was therefore not notified on the Regimental Casualty Lists from which the CD-RoM is based.



**Major James RIGBY's grave at Longton.
is not of the typical C.W.G.C. type,
but a large granite Runic cross mounted
on a granite base.**