

11a The Home Guard 6 March 1942



July 2008

Volunteer W Whelan, 1st County of Lancaster bn.
Home Guard, formerly the Border Regt.
6 March 1942 aged 31.



29 May 2013

Corporal H Coop
1st County of Lancaster bn.
Home Guard
6 March 1942

The *Barrow News* 7 March 1942 wrote

RAMPSIDE FIRE TRAGEDY

TWO MEN LOSE THEIR LIVES

Two members of the Home Guard were found dead in a shelter near Rampside yesterday, apparently having been overcome by fumes. They were: -

Herbert Coop (62) of 66 Cheltenham-street; and William Wheelan (*sic*) (31), of 38, Lord-street, Barrow.

Discovery of the men's fate was made about 9.30 a.m. when Walter Rainey, of 24, Mount Pleasant, Barrow, saw smoke coming from a ventilator of the shelter. He found a fire blazing in one of the compartments of the shelter, and although he attempted to gain admittance was beaten back by the flames.

Barrow Fire Brigade was called and on entry being made both men were found to be dead.

Coop was kneeling by the side of a bunk, but Wheelan had apparently attempted to reach the exit before being overcome, and had sustained burns.

There was a combustion stove in the compartment where (*sic*) the bunks were, but the fire apparently occurred in a separate compartment and its origin is a mystery.

Coop, who was a married man, was a corporal, and Wheelan, a private, was single.