

## The Accrington Pals

### Synopsis

Early in September 1914, the mayor of Accrington called for 100 men to form a battalion. Over 1200 men volunteered in only 10 days.

At the Somme at 7:30 a.m. in bright sunshine of the 1st of July 1916 over 700 "Pals" advanced from their trenches. As they came across the 300 yards of "No man's Land" they were swept by machine gun and rifle fire. In less than 20 minutes most were either dead or wounded. Not one man wavered or turned back.

This moving play tells their story and that of their wives and sweethearts who were left behind.

### Characters:

**May** - 30-35 Hardworking & ambitious veg. stallholder, in love with much younger Tom

**Eva** - 20's Gentle, girlfriend of Ralph, come from the country to work in the Mill, takes a room in May's house

**Annie Boggis** - late 30's Married to Arthur & Mother of Reggie who she's always chasing to give him a belting - loses it when she thinks her husband is dead.

**Sarah** - about 25 Married with kids, mill worker, very chatty, cheeky, a bit nosey

**Bertha** - 18+ Friend of Sarah, also mill girl, gets a job as tram conductress when all the men are away

**Tom** - 20ish An apprentice, lodges with May, a dreamer & an idealist.

**Ralph** - 20ish A clerk, friend of Tom, full of beans, in love with Eva.

**CSM Rivers** - 30 - 50 A regular soldier, promises May he'll take care of Tom

**Arthur Boggis** - 35-40 Husband of Annie, quite religious, loves his Pigeons, especially England's Glory, who he takes with him to the Front

**Reggie Boggis** - 14-15 Son of Annie & Arthur, bit of a devil, always hiding from his Mum, plays the bugle in the Boy's Brigade