St Olave's Church, York

World War 1 Memorial

St Olave's WW1 Memorial – left hand side of the Nave

Introduction

This booklet remembers 57 young men, including six sets of brothers, who gave their lives for their country, and for us, during World War 1. They are all named on St Olave's WW1 memorial. Our record of the men who died in this conflict coincides with the 2018 centenary of the end of the Great War. The booklet is an abridged version of a full record, which is available to view (see website for details: *ww1memorial@stolaveschurch.org.uk*)

On 11 November 1918, the bells rang out in York as people celebrated the end of hostilities and remembered those they had lost. In England alone at least 700,000 men were killed in the Great War. Those who came home would be affected for the rest of their lives by the mental and/or physical consequences of their injuries and experiences.

Until recently, our congregation and visitors have had little knowledge of the lives of the men on our memorial. Thanks to Colin Carbert's painstaking research over several months, and the work of a group of volunteers from our congregation, we now have a lasting record. My thanks are due to Colin and all those who made this record possible. I hope you will contemplate what it represents and say a quiet prayer in solemn remembrance.

The Reverend Jane Nattrass
Priest-in-Charge
York City Centre Churches

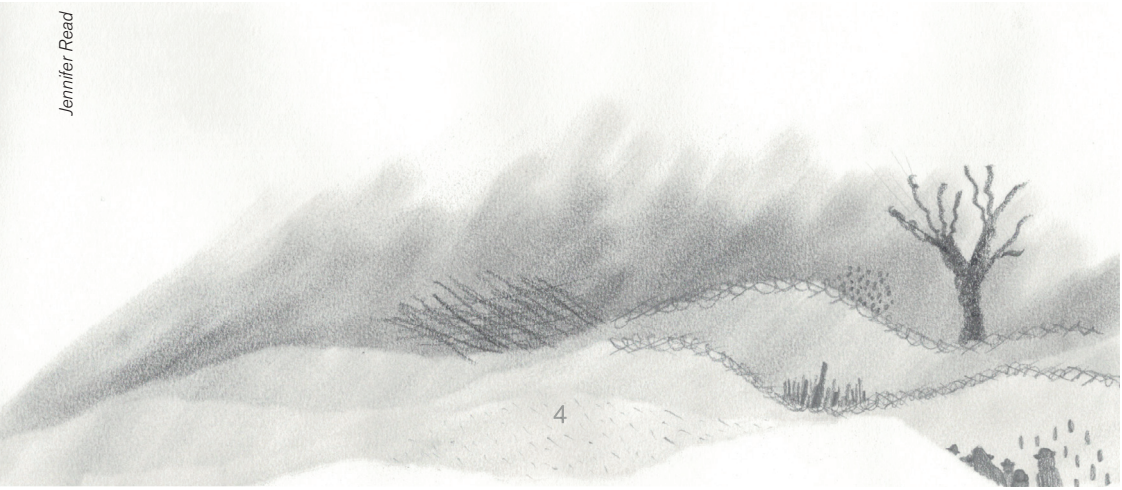
Preface

On 4th August 1914 people learned that Britain was about to go to war with Germany and that other countries were also involved. No one then knew that the world would never be the same, nor that slaughter on an unimaginable scale would take the lives of millions. Whole generations of men were wiped out.

By 11th November 1918, Britain and her allies had lost at least 5,250,000 men. Germany and her allies had lost over 3,500,000 men. At least 11,000,000 were wounded, many incapacitated for life. The numbers are stark. They reflect individual stories of courage, harrowing conditions, fortitude, fear and unprecedented loss of life. These men were husbands, sons, brothers, cousins, uncles, fiancés and friends.

We owe them (and 25 years later those who died in WW2) a huge debt. We have a duty to honour and remember their ultimate sacrifice.
This booklet is a testament to that sacrifice. It is dedicated to the men named on the St Olave's WW1 memorial who, as a result of this research, have re-entered our collective consciousness.

Helen Fields



Jennifer Read

Acknowledgements

- The primary research for this record and booklet was compiled by Colin Carbert, using sources from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Ancestry UK, newspapers and other archives. It has been supplemented by secondary research undertaken by a small committee of the congregation, using a wide range of resources.

- Colin has our grateful thanks. We are grateful also to the York Army Museum with whom we have collaborated to share information, fill gaps and draw stories from the memorial to support the Museum's work and displays.

- Thanks are also extended to members of the congregation who typed Colin's records and notes, wrote articles on some of the men for our parish magazine, created displays and thereby helped to ensure these men are not forgotten.

- Note: In some cases records are non-existent, scanty or incomplete. Around 60% of WW1 military records were destroyed during the Blitz in London during WW2.

- In several instances, connections between the names on the memorial and St Olave's have been difficult to ascertain.

Members of the congregation:

Kingsley Boulton
Helen Fields
Molly Harris
Gail Murden
Bill Read
Jane Read
Jennifer Read
Ruth Sillar
John Stanton
Nina Wilson

List of names on the St Olave's WW1 Memorial

Left side:

Name	Regiment	Date
William Air	Royal Engineers	Died March 1917
Lawrence A Atkinson	Royal Army Medical Corps	Died June 1918
Reginald G C Busby	Durham Light Infantry	Killed Dec 1916
Harold W C Busby	London Scottish	Missing July 1916
Charles Bardy	Machine Gun Corps	Killed Sept 1918
Arthur J Backhouse	173rd Brigade RFA	Died October 1918
Arthur Braithwaite	Royal Irish Regiment	Missing March 1918
Charles Bean	Royal Army Medical Corps	Killed July 1916
John Backhouse	21st BNW York Pioneers	Died October 1918
Job Henry (Harry) Cole	Royal Garrison Artillery	Killed Dec 1917
Colin Arthur Carter	5th West Yorkshire Regiment	Killed Oct 1917
Norman Coutts	Royal Engineers	Died January 1918
William Cossins	5th West Yorkshire Regiment	Killed Sept 1918
John Cook	10th West Yorkshire Regiment	Missing Sept 1918
George Coggan	13th Battalion Royal Scots	Killed Sept 1915
Phillip Duncan	Seaforth Highlanders	Killed April 1917
Robert Fotheringham	47th Canadian Battalion	Killed Nov 1916
Cyril N Goodwill	West Yorkshire Regiment	Killed Sept 1916
Walter Holman	20th Northumberland Fusiliers	Missing June 1917
Edward Hick	1st Wiltshire Regiment	Killed Sept 1917
Harold Hick	Royal Marines	Drowned June 1916
William Hodgson	Seaforth Highlanders	Killed Oct 1916
William H Harrison	5th West Yorkshire Regiment	Killed Sept 1916
Arthur Harrison	Royal Field Artillery	Died March 1918
Walter P Harland	Canadian Infantry	Killed April 1917
Harold Jefferson	10th Duke of Wellingtons	Killed Sept 1917
Richard Digby Johnson	3rd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers	Killed May 1915
Gilbert Johnson	5th West Yorkshire Regiment	Killed Sept 1915

Right side:

Name	Regiment	Date
Cecil Johnson	23rd Lincolnshire Regiment	Died April 1918
John W Kettlewell	6th Leicester Regiment	Killed July 1916
Stephen Carter Lane	King's Own Scottish Borderers	Died August 1918
Gilbert Lewis	Royal Marine Light Infantry	Killed April 1917
Frederick Leech	1st East Yorkshire Regiment	Killed May 1917
John Wynne Lisle	5th West Yorkshire Regiment	Missing May 1917
James Lickley	5th West Yorkshire Regiment	Killed May 1915
George Myton	3rd Leicester Regiment	Missing March 1918
A Noel Morley	Public School Battalion – Royal London Fusiliers	Died October 1916
James W Maxwell	Royal Garrison Artillery	Died Sept 1918
William H Nicholls	Royal Field Artillery	Killed October 1917
George Nicholls	Royal Engineers	Died Nov 1918
Thomas Y Newbegin	1st East Yorkshire Regiment	Killed April 1915
John Sherwood Newman	6th Battalion East Yorks	Killed August 1915
Lawrence L Overton	10th Essex Regiment	Missing April 1918
Walter Pollard	7th Yorkshire Regiment	Missing May 1917
George Edwin Pollard	10th Service – West Yorkshire Regiment	Killed March 1918
Walter Pallister	Royal Berkshire Regiment	Killed April 1918
Frank Hill Pfluger	East Riding Yorks Yeomanry	Drowned April 1917
Angus Ross	Machine Gun Corps	Killed April 1918
Fred Richardson	Submarine G 9	Killed Sept 1917
Alfred Ringrose	Royal Irish Fusiliers	Killed March 1918
Alfred Rigney	5th Lancers	Died October 1914
John Clement Smith	Northumberland Fusiliers	Killed Oct 1917
Tom Skelly	2nd Northumberland Fusiliers	Died October 1918
George Sawden	Royal Army Service Corps	Died October 1918
Arthur Duncombe Shafto	2nd Battalion Royal Scottish	Killed August 1914
Duncan Savage	Royal Field Artillery	Killed August 1918
Jubilee James Taylor	Royal Fusiliers	Died July 1918

Private William Air 256739 - Railway Operating Division, Royal Engineers

William Air was born in Rufforth, York in early 1892, the son of George Webster Air and Harriet Air. William's father was a coal merchant and also a Parish Councillor at Poppleton. The family lived at 25, Buckingham Street, York. The census of 1891 indicates William had an older brother and younger sister. In 1911, William was living at Glenholme, Poppleton with his family. He was 19 years old and had become a railway clerk based at Riccall. He married Frances Mary Jacklin in 1917. The couple lived at 3, Ratcliffe Street, Burton Stone Lane. William was the brother-in-law of Walter Holman (also remembered on the St Olave's WW1 memorial). Walter was the illegitimate son of Susan Jacklin, mother to Frances Mary Jacklin. There are no military records for William Air's time as Sapper. William had been married for less than three months when he died of meningitis on 12th March, 1917, aged 25. Walter Holman died three months later (5th June, 1917). In that short space of time Frances Air had lost both her husband and her half-brother.

© Carbert

William Air's Grave, York Cemetery

William is interred in a family grave at York Cemetery. Ref: B2 2046. He is also remembered on the NER Roll of Honour, the NER war memorial, the Poppleton war memorial and in the King's Book at York Minster.

Private Lawrence Alfred Atkinson 77691 - Royal Army Medical Corps

Lawrence Atkinson was born at South Milford, near Tadcaster in 1891, the second son of Walter and Edith Atkinson of 34, Mayville Avenue, Scarborough. His father was an engineer's assistant. The family later lived at Monk Fryston and by 1911 they had moved to 20, Queen Anne's Road, York. Lawrence's occupation was a timekeeper (wages) at the North Eastern Railway (NER). In June 1914, Lawrence married Jessie Ellen Hastie at Scarborough. The couple started their married life at Brompton, Northallerton. Lawrence's attestation (an agreement to be in the Army) happened on 3rd November, 1915. After 297 days training he served with the British Expeditionary Force in France from 27th August 1916. His statement of service indicates he was attached to the RAF – 103 Squadron.

Lawrence was killed in action on 5th June 1918, aged 27 and was interred in the Beauvais Communal Cemetery in France. Cemetery Ref: 16. 531. The inscription on his grave reads: 'We have fought the good fight, we have kept the Faith'. He is remembered on the Monk Fryston WW1 Memorial and in the NER records of war dead. Lawrence's name is also entered in the RAMC Book of Remembrance, the Golden Book 1, which contains the names of 743 officers and 6,130 other ranks, who died in the Great War. A ceremony of turning the pages of the Golden Book is performed each month.

Bombardier Arthur Joseph Backhouse 775877 - A Battery 173rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Arthur Joseph Backhouse, also known as Arthur Joseph Beaumont-Backhouse (his baptismal name), was born in 1895, the son of John and Alice Harriet Beaumont-Backhouse of 10, Glen Road, Heworth. Inconsistency in his surname arises from the re-marriage of Arthur's paternal grandmother Mary Beaumont to Alfred Backhouse. Some of the children were therefore named Beaumont-Backhouse, including Arthur's father, John. John was a blacksmith in a flour mill. Arthur had an older brother Cyril, born in 1887 and a younger brother, John, born in 1898. He also had three older sisters, Constance, Eva and Gertrude. By 1901 the family lived at 2, Glencoe Street, Bootham. Before 1911, they had moved to 10, Glen Road, Heworth, York. There are no known military records for Arthur or his brothers. His regiment, the Royal Field Artillery, provided support for the army at the frontline. Arthur died of wounds on 17th October, 1918 aged 23 years. His death came just five days before that of his younger brother John.

Arthur is buried at Duhallow ADS Cemetery, Ypres. Ref: IV. H.17. An ADS (Advanced Dressing Station) was where casualties were first taken. The ADS often later becoming the site of a cemetery.

Lance Corporal John Backhouse 38629 - 21st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Lance Corporal John Backhouse is erroneously identified as John Bockhouse on the St Olave's WW1 memorial. No military records have been discovered regarding John's service with the West Yorkshire Regiment. He was the younger brother of Arthur Joseph Backhouse (see above). John Backhouse died of wounds on 22nd October, 1918, five days after his older brother and just under three weeks before the armistice.

He is buried at Wellington Cemetery, Rieux-En-Cambrais. Grave Ref: 111 F8.

Private Charles Bardy 1155017 - 12th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Charles was born in 1888 at St John's Street, York, the eldest son of Charles and Sarah Bardy. Charles (senior) was a blacksmith's striker at NER. Both parents were born in York in the mid-1860s. Charles (senior) and Sarah were parents to ten children, eight of whom were alive in 1911. The Bardy family lived at 53, Tanner Row. Charles (junior), now aged 23, had followed his father into work at NER as a wagon builder. His sister Elizabeth was a confectionery picker at York Cocoa Works. His younger siblings were all at school. In 1913 Charles (junior) married Florence Emily Newbegin, a restaurant waitress, of 5, Ebor St. There are no records of any children. Charles subsequently joined the Northumberland Fusiliers and later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. The MGC was formed to make more effective use of machine guns on the Western Front. No military records survive for Charles. He died on 18th September, 1918.

He is interred and remembered at Epehy Wood Farm Cemetery, Epehy, Somme. Grave Ref: I. G.11

Private Charles Frederick Bean 68089 – 107th Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

Charles Bean was born in 1884 in York, the son of Frederick William and Eliza Bean. His father was York born, a mechanics labourer at a flour mill. Frederick and Eliza were parents to nine children, of whom seven were alive in 1911. At this time Charles, aged 18, was working as a grocer's shop assistant. On 6th September, 1914, Charles signed his attestation papers for war service. Following training he was posted to 107th Field Ambulance RAMC on 23rd October, 1915, embarking from Southampton to Le Havre on 30th January 1916. The Royal Army Field Ambulance was a mobile frontline medical unit, manned by troops of the RAMC. Each had special responsibility for the care of casualties. The men did not carry guns or ammunition. Charles was wounded in action and died of his wounds aged 23 on 21st July, 1916. His medals, scroll and death penny were sent to Mrs Laura Lincoln, 26, Wilson Street, Lincoln. Laura Lincoln also received his identity disc, five personal letters and the remaining part of a rosary.

Charles is remembered at Carney Military Cemetery, Somme, Ref: Row 32. He is also commemorated in the RAMC Golden Book 1.

Wikimedia National Library NZ

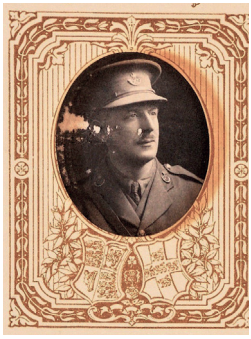
Field Ambulance WW1

Lance Corporal Arthur Braithwaite 10230 – 2nd Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment

Arthur Braithwaite was born in 1895 in York. His father, George died when Arthur was 3 years old. Arthur and his older brothers, Edward, George, Thomas and Henry, were all baptised at St Olave's church. His mother, Annie had been baptised at St Olave's (1854). Annie gave birth to a daughter, Annie Elizabeth, in 1879, who died, aged 4. Annie also lost two other children. She and her sons lived at 31, Bootham Square. In 1911 Arthur was 16, working as a chocolate confectionery maker. The family lived at 12, Bootham Square. No military records exist for Arthur's service during WW1. He died on 21st March, 1918 aged 22. On this date, the major German Spring offensive, known as the Second Battle of the Somme, began. The Royal Irish Regiment (2nd Battalion) were in action on 21st March.

Arthur is remembered on the Poziéres Memorial, Somme Ref: Panel 30 and 31.

Second Lieutenant Reginald George Camden Busby 15898 – 18th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry



King's Book

Second Lieutenant Reginald G.C. Busby

Second Lieutenant Reginald George Camden Busby was born at Tadcaster in 1882, the eldest son of George Camden Busby and Martha Welland. Reginald had two younger brothers, Harold and Frederick and two sisters, Florence and Emily. In the 1890s, George Busby a former soldier was superintendent at York Ragged School (later known as the Industrial School) in Marygate. His wife Martha was matron and their daughter Emily was a schoolmistress. The school was established on the site of the former Marygate Workhouse, its purpose to 'inculcate habits of industry and prepare poor children for life as workers or domestic service'. In 1900 Reginald was appointed as assistant schoolmaster at the school.

Reginald married Helen Meggitt Farrow at Pocklington in 1909. A daughter, Helen Mary, was born in 1910. A second daughter, Margaret, was born in 1914. The family lived in Cowlishaw Road, Sheffield. Reginald enlisted at Sheffield in November 1914 (East Yorkshire Regiment). He rose to the rank of Lance Sergeant (corporal). He received a subsequent commission to Second Lieutenant on 21st January, 1916.

Following his promotion Reginald joined the 18th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, going with them to France. As part of 31st Division, attacking the village of Serre, his division suffered 500 casualties, including 70 men killed between 1st and 5th July, 1916. Reginald was fortunate to survive. However, the regimental history relates that, on 16th December, the divisional artillery had been shelling

the German lines in preparation for a raid. As the enemy retaliated in kind a shell penetrated a dugout and burst inside. The incident killed Captain Phorson and Second Lieutenant Reginald Busby aged 34. Reginald left his widow Helen and their two daughters.

Billion Graves

Reginald Busby's grave at Sailly-au-Bois Cemetery

He is remembered at Sailly-au-Bois Military (Pas de Calais) Cemetery, Grave Ref: 11.G.2, within a couple of miles of his missing younger brother Harold. It is likely that Reginald was informed of Harold's death just under six months before his own. Reginald's father George had died aged 66 in 1915. He was spared the knowledge that both of his sons had died. Reginald's other younger brother, Frederick, was badly wounded but survived the war. The inscription on Reginald's grave reads: 'Be thou Faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life'.

Private Harold Wycliffe Camden Busby 6921 - 1st/14th Battalion London regiment (London Scottish)

Harold Wycliffe Camden Busby was born in York in 1891. (See Reginald Busby above for family history). Prior to joining the army Harold had left home to become a civil servant in London. In 1911 Harold was 19 and living in a boarding house in Hammersmith. He was an assistant clerk at the Inland Revenue. The London Gazette of 1st October 1911 cites Harold as having transferred from the Inland Revenue to the Office of the National Health Service Commissioners. Harold enlisted as a private in 1914, joining the London Scottish Regiment. Little is known of Harold's service history but his unit was part of the 56th Division which, from the beginning of May 1916, had held the trenches opposite the German occupied village of Gommecourt, a strongly fortified salient in the British frontline about ten miles north of the town of Albert.

As a part of the careful preparation for the assault planned for 1st July, the 1st/14th battalion had trained on a full-scale replica of the German defences, including a 'rehearsal' of the battle. They came up into the line on 30th June, and that night assembled in recently prepared forward trenches, while their divisional artillery bombarded the German defenders. At 0730 hours on 1st July (the first day of the Battle of the Somme) the battalion left its trenches under the cover of a smoke screen, and walked forward with bayonets fixed. The men were caught in the open by enemy shelling but, despite this. they pushed on towards their first objective, the German front line about 600 yards away. They managed to hold onto temporary positions but by mid-morning their situation was untenable, as the battalion to their left had been driven back, exposing their flank. Withdrawal was inevitable and the survivors returned to the British trenches. Private Harold Busby was one of those who did not come back. His body was never recovered. On this first day of 'The Somme' British forces suffered 57, 470 casualties including 19, 240 killed. Harold

is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. Ref: Pier and Face 9c and 13c, along with another 72,185 men, who have no known grave. The attack he had been engaged in had failed, as indeed it had almost the length of the line. The first Battle of the Somme raged on for four and a half months and, as winter drew on it finally ended on 19th November 1916. The Allied trenches had moved forward just six miles.

Corporal Colin Arthur Carter 307398 - 1st/8th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Colin Carter was born in early 1893 in Fulham, London. In 1901, Colin's father George Edward Carter, was a grocer's assistant in London. His mother, Mary, was a school teacher. George Carter died in late 1901. Mary had given birth to six children, all of whom had died apart from Colin. By 1911, Mary and Colin had moved to 73, Clarence Street, York. Mary, then aged 49, worked as a school mistress in York. Colin was aged 18, working as a clerk for a chocolate manufacturer. There are no military records relating to Colin. He died on 9th October 1917, aged 24 years. The West Yorkshire Regiment 1st/8th Battalion was heavily involved in operations on the Western Front during WW1. In 1917, when Colin lost his life, they were engaged in fighting on the Flanders coast and the Battle of Poelcapelle. Colin's mother, Mary, had now lost her entire family. Following Colin's death, she moved to Northampton.

Colin has no known grave and is remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial. West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Ref: Panel 42-47 and 162

Company Sergeant Major George Coggan 20674 – 13th Battalion, Royal Scots

George Coggan was born in York around 1877, growing up at North Ferriby, Yorkshire. He was the seventh child of Alice Saynor and William Coggan. His parents had nine children, between the years 1867 and 1879. George's father died in October 1879. His mother Alice remarried (to William Ashby) in 1885. She had a further four children. By 1891, George was 14 years old, a farm servant, living with his mother and stepfather, three Coggan siblings and three Ashby half-siblings. George joined the East Yorkshire Regiment in 1894, aged 18, for a term of six years. He travelled with the regiment to India. When his six-year term ended, he stayed on to serve with the Simoor and C.J Mounted Rifles. George married Ada Padley in Leeds on 13th July 1907. He returned to India with Ada, where two sons, George and Cyril, were born. He served again until 1913, with the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Volunteers, rising to the rank of Acting Sergeant Major. During his service, he was awarded the Queen's India Medal with Bars for action in Diapore and Arrah. The family moved back to York and had another son, Frederick. In September 1914, George re-joined the East Yorkshire Regiment. He and his family were then living

Hull Times Sept 1915 British Newspaper Archives

CSM George Coggan

at 12, Hetherton Street, Marygate. He had been working as an assistant master at the India School. In January 1915, he made a request to join the Royal Scots, which was accepted. By his own admission, George Coggan was an experienced, well qualified soldier. In his application he described himself as being 5 feet, 7 inches tall, 168lbs in weight, with a 38inch chest, 'very good physical development' and 'an exemplary character'.

He embarked to France with the 13th Service Battalion on 9th July, 1915. George was killed in action on 27th September, 1915 at the Battle of Loos. The Royal Scots war diary notes that 325 men (from a Battalion strength of around 800) were killed or injured on 26/27th Sept. George was killed by a bullet to the head whilst urging his men forward and calling for reinforcements during a German counter attack. He lay where he had fallen. His body was not recovered from the field. George had served at the front for just 81 days. He left his widow and three children, who by then were living at Hessle Road, Hull. The Hull Times reported his death, publishing a moving letter from his Commanding Officer to George's wife Ada, explaining the heroic circumstances of her husband's death. (See St Olave's WW1 full memorial record and article from Hull Times for further details).

George Coggan is remembered on the Loos Memorial, Ref: Panel 10-13.

Acting Bombardier Job Henry Cole 104651 – 231st Siege Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery

Job Henry Cole was born in early 1879 in York. He was baptised at St Olave's on 21st May 1879, the youngest son of Job and Ann Cole, of 26, Lord Mayors Walk, York. Job Cole (senior) was a sculptor, born in Osbaldwick. His mother Ann, was born in Cambridge. Job had two older brothers and six sisters. He married Theresa Williamson from Bishop Auckland in 1896. They started their married life at 18, Grove Place in York. Job was employed as a cabinet maker. By 1911, the couple were parents to four children (Gladys Margery, Doris May, Charles Henry and Muriel). Another daughter, Annie, was born after 1911. Their son Charles Henry died in 1918 aged 10, following appendix surgery.

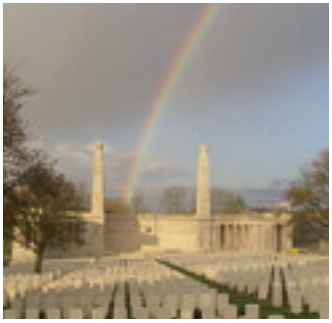
Job was called up for military service on 10th December 1915, aged 38, joining the Siege Battalion, Royal Garrison Artillery. His address at the time was 41, Lord Mayors Walk. He trained at Great Yarmouth from 10th July-24th December, 1916. He was posted to France on Christmas Day 1916. Job was killed in action just under a year later on10th December 1917. Amongst his effects, received by Theresa, were letters, photos and cards, two pocket wallets, one note book, a watch (no glass) and strap, a rubber, a cap badge, four uniform titles, one crown and one cross-guns badge.

Job Henry Cole is remembered at Talana Farm Cemetery. Grave Ref: 1V. J .2

Private John Cook 57380 - 10th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

John Cook was born in York in 1882. There are no census records of his childhood, parents or any siblings. In 1911, John lived at 23, Marygate, York. He was 28 years old and had been married for six years to Florence Alice Cook (nee Wilkinson). The couple had two living children, Cecil William Cook, aged 5 and Annie Christine Cook, aged 4 months. A third child, Douglas John Cook, was born on 24th June, 1918. Their son Cecil died in 1926 and Douglas died in 1922.

Wikipedia (MilbourneOne CC BY-SA 3.0



Vis-En-Artois Memorial.

John Cook enlisted for war service as a private with the West Yorkshire Regiment, on 6th June 1917. He died in action, aged 35, 15 months later in September ,1918. He left his widow Florence and three children, two of whom died within six years of their father. Florence subsequently lived to be 96, dying in 1979.

John Cook has no known grave and is remembered on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais. Ref: Panel 21a.

Sergeant William (Willie) Cossins 200018 - 8th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Willie Cossins was born in York in 1873 and baptised at St Olave's Church on 2nd February, 1873. He was the youngest son of Thomas Richardson Cossins and Sarah Ann Cossins, of 27, Bootham Square, York. Willie's father was an upholsterer. Willie had four sisters and a brother. By 1901, after an earlier period of apprenticeship, Willie had become a compositor in a printing works and his family had moved to 55, Gillygate. The family employed one servant and had two boarders. In 1908, Willie signed up with the 5th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment, Territorial Force. He was then aged 35 and living at 72, Marygate. Prior to joining up, Willie worked for the York Herald Newspaper. He had married Laura Cossins of 42, Marygate (where they subsequently lived). Willie and Laura were now parents to one child, Alan, born 1907. The couple also had a daughter, Gertrude, born in 1910, but she died, in 1911. Another daughter, Joyce Marion, was born in July 1913. On 1st April 1916, Willie was transferred to full Army duties with the 8th Battalion (Leeds Rifles) West Yorkshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 27th September, 1918, aged 45. He had been promoted to Acting CSM (Source, Probate Register).

Willie was interred at Ruyaulcourt Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais. Ref: K43. He is remembered on the WW1 memorial at St Peter's Church, Leeds, as well as the St Olave's memorial.

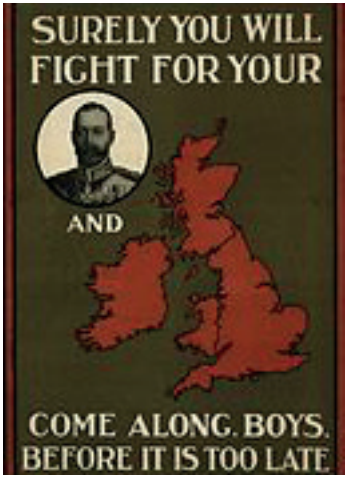
Sapper Norman Coutts 112320 – Royal Engineers

Norman Frederick Coutts was born in York in 1881. He was the eldest son of Frederick and Emily Coutts. Frederick was a plumber. Norman had two younger brothers, Albert and Frank. In 1891, the family lived at 13, Whitely Terrace, Walmgate. By 1901, Norman's father and his youngest brother Frank had died and Emily and her two sons were living at 43, Havelock Terrace, in the parish of St Oswald's, Fulford. Emily took in boarders to help supplement the family income. She later moved to 44, Gillygate. In 1911, Norman was aged 20 and living in Workington as a joiner/carpenter. There are no records of when Norman joined up for the war or whether he had married. He joined the Royal Engineers as a sapper. Norman was mentioned in dispatches in 1917, whilst in action in France. This is recorded in the London Gazette of 1st February, 1917, page 216. The date corresponds with the Battle of Arras (1917), where Norman was likely to have been in action. Norman died after the war ended on 22nd January, 1919 from peritonitis, possibly resulting from earlier wounds.

He is buried in a family grave at York Cemetery. Ref: B6. 4535 (Grave photo available in full St Olave's WW1 record). His grave is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He is also remembered in the King's Book.

Private Phillip Duncan 291467 – 7th Battalion, Black Watch, (Royal Highlanders)

Phillip Duncan (P. McRae Duncan) was born in York in 1898. He was the son of Phillip Duncan (senior) and Mary Jane Duncan. Phillip's mother was born in Easingwold, near York. In 1901, Phillip (junior) was living with his parents at 4, Bootham Square. He had an older brother and younger sister. All three children were baptised at St Olave's Church, Phillip being baptised on 20th September, 1898. In 1911, the family were living at 32, Bootham Row. Phillip's father was working as a cook and his son was at school, aged 13.



Wikimedia with Rebus: Public domain

Enlistment poster WW1

Phillip (junior) signed up for war service with the Yorkshire Hussars on 16th March 1915. He was just 16 years and seven months old. To enlist, rules stipulated that men had to be 5' 3'' tall and aged 18 to 38. No overseas postings were permitted before the age of 19. This rule changed following the Military Service Act of 2nd March, 1916. By that date all men aged 19-41 were deemed to have enlisted. By May 1916, rules changed again, lowering the age range of enlistment to 18 and extending

the upper age limit to 41. The rules changed once more in 1918 (the age range becoming 18-50). On 20th March 1915, Phillip McRae Duncan attempted to transfer from the Yorkshire Hussars to the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) Regiment, claiming to be a clerk, aged 19 and 1 month. However, he was discharged from the Army in August 1916 under para 392 (ii) King's Regulations – Irregular Enlistment. On that date Phillip was just over 17 years old and had clearly lied about his age. (It was not unusual for boys to lie about their age on enlistment).

At an unknown date, Phillip and his brother Kenneth McRae Duncan signed up as privates in the Black Watch. Both were engaged in the 1st Battle of Arras in April 1917. Private Phillip McRae Duncan died on 18th April, 1917, aged 18. His brother Kenneth survived the war.

Phillip is buried and remembered at Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension. Ref: II. B. 15.

Private Robert Fotheringham 628118 – 47th Battalion (British Columbia), Canadian Infantry

Robert Fotheringham was born in 1890in Acomb, York. He was the first-born son of Robert Fotheringham (senior), a plane maker, and Elizabeth Fotheringham. Both parents were born in Scotland. The family lived at 21, Milner Street in Acomb. In 1891, the family had moved to Hetherton Street, Bootham in the parish of St Olave's. Robert and Elizabeth had six children. Robert (senior) died in 1901. In 1911 the family remained at Hetherton Street. Robert was then aged 21, working as a mechanic. He had one younger sister and two younger brothers. There are no military records regarding Robert's service with the Canadian Infantry. It is known that Robert's battalion was part of the 4th Canadian Division, formed in England, April 1916. From 1st October to 11th November 1916, the 4th Canadian were engaged in the Battle of Ancre Heights, during the closing stages of the Somme. The objective was to pinch out a German Salient (bulge) on the Ancre River, including an attack on a defensive position known as Regina Trench. Bad weather had delayed the main attack, which eventually came in mid-November. Robert is likely to have lost his life during this attack or in the days preceding it.

He died near Le Sars on 11th November, 1916, aged 26.

Second Lieutenant Cyril Goodwill – 5th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Cyril Newton Goodwill was born in 1887 in Whitby. He was the eldest son of Nathan and Constance Goodwill. In 1901, the Goodwill family were living at 24, Claremont Terrace, in the parish of St Olave's with St Giles. Cyril's father was a railway clerk at North Eastern Railway (NER). Nathan and Constance had another son, Donald, aged 6. By 1911, Cyril had followed his father into employment as a clerk at NER.

Cyril enlisted into the Army Volunteer Corps on 9th May, 1905 at the age of 17. In April 1908, he enlisted for the Army Territorial Force (Royal Garrison Artillery) becoming a 'Saturday soldier' at the age of 20. He received a commission in the spring of 1915. He undertook training in Harrogate with the 2/5th Battalion, before transferring to the 1/5th. Cyril married Mabel Emily Hesp on 27th December 1915 (by special licence) at St Olave's Church. The couple had been married for less than ten months when Cyril lost his life on 3rd September 1916, near Thiepval, Somme.

The exact circumstance of Cyril's death is uncertain; however, he was personally engaged in heavy action associated with the Battle of Pozières Ridge, Somme. The location of action was a salient called Pope's Nose, near Thiepval Wood. In August 1916, Cyril had been involved with 25 of his men in improving the British trenches by replicating the design of captured German trenches. They began work in mid-August 1916, in 'no man's land', under heavy fire. Three men were killed and 19 wounded during operations, involving several friendly fire incidents. Cyril survived and the work on trench improvement continued to foil German counter attacks. After two or three cancellations, an overall order to attack German defensive lines (from the 'Pope's Nose' to an area called 'Peterhead Sap') came just after dawn on Sunday 3rd September, 1916. 5th Battalion West Yorkshire's were ordered to provide support for other leading battalions. Enemy fire was severe. Many men turned back after the first wave were isolated and the second wave was decimated by shrapnel and high explosive fire. 'Enfilading fire'[1] had turned the area into a killing zone. Survivors of the second wave were forced back into a sunken road where many were piled up either dead or wounded. The Army's failure to achieve objectives was due to insufficient preparation, lack of counter fire, sheer exhaustion of troops as they tried to advance (against all the odds) and inability to capture enemy machine guns. Cyril lost his life during this action alongside many of his men. The attack was called off when commanding officers realised the scale of losses.

Cyril is mentioned in a recent book describing the West Yorkshire Regiment's experiences on that day and in other action (Source: *Harrogate Terriers' West Yorkshire Regiment (1/5th Territorials) in the Great War*. John Sheehan, 2017). General Haig on learning of the failed attack was quoted as saying that many men had 'lacked commitment'. Out of a strength of 360 men, 128 were killed or wounded.

1. Enfilading fire was a military tactic which subjected advancing troops to sweeping fire along the whole length of the line and sometimes also on each flank, in this case by machine guns.

Cyril Goodwill died on the battlefield. His body was temporarily buried and marked with a wooden cross. In 1919, his body was exhumed and re-interred at Mill Road Cemetery, near Thiepval. Ref: X. E7. Cyril's death was reported in the Whitby Gazette of 8th September, 1916. The following inscription is on his grave 'Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord, let perpetual light shine upon him'. Cyril is also remembered on the NER Roll of Honour.

Private W P (Walter Percy) Harland 587769 - 54th Battalion Canadian Infantry

Walter Percy Harland was born in York in 1890. His father, Walker Harland, was a post office telegraphist. His parents lived at 52, Fountain Street, Bootham. By 1911, Walter was 21 and was living as a boarder in Bradford. He was working as a glazier. In May 1913, aged 23, Walter emigrated to Canada, on board the ship 'Tunisian'. His destination was Kamloops, British Columbia. On embarkation, Walter stated he was a gardener, indicating that this was the occupation he would pursue in Canada and signing up for three years. He disembarked at Quebec. (Source – LDS Family Search). There is no evidence that Walter married before or after emigration. At a date unknown, but presumably between 1913 and 1916, Walter joined the Canadian Infantry (54th Battalion, Central Ontario Regiment). He died in action on 9th April, 1917. The circumstances of Walter's death are unknown. However, his battalion was engaged (with three others) in the first day of an attack on a coveted and major strategic German defence position at Vimy Ridge.

On Easter Monday, 5.30am, 9th April, 1917 the four Canadian attacking battalions crept forward, behind a wall of flame and mortar fire, which had been unleashed by the Canadian Mounted Rifles. The weather was cold, with driving sleet. The Canadian Infantry continued to move forward through barbed wire and churned ground, facing German machine guns, rifles and pistols at point blank range. Fierce hand to hand fighting ensued as they attempted to reach their objective in stages. The Canadians role was to take and hold Vimy Ridge to support the flank of the British Army.

The operation lasted three days. By 12th April the ridge was completely captured and never again fell to the Germans. Considered to be the beginning of the Battle of Arras, the Canadian Army success at Vimy Ridge was due to superior training, meticulous preparation and effective firepower. Success came at great cost - over 10,600 casualties, including 3,580 killed. Walter Harland was one of them.

Walter was re-interred in 1919 at La Chaudière Military Cemetery, Vimy. Ref: V111 D17, close to the impressive Canadian National Monument to WW1 dead at Vimy Ridge and elsewhere.

Wikipedia Carchoroth 2010

Vimy Memorial

Gunner Arthur Harrison 776299 - D Battery 245th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Arthur Harrison was born at Askham Richard, near York in 1892, the eldest son of Thomas Laurence Harrison and Hannah Harrison (nee Harper). Thomas came from Moor Monkton and Hannah from Stockton on the Forest. Thomas worked as a farm and estate worker in the 1880s/90s. Arthur had three younger brothers, William, Laurence and Edwin. Another son, Harper, had been born in 1895 but died soon after birth. By 1911 the family had moved to 11, Percy Street in York. Thomas was then a labourer with the Municipal Council. Arthur was 17, working as an assistant caretaker at a council school.

Arthur enlisted in the Army at York (exact date unknown but possibly in 1915), joining the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) as a Gunner. The rank of Gunner is equivalent to Private in the British Army. In WW1, a gun crew's main role was to defend trench lines, preventing them being overrun by the enemy. Each man carried around 3 stones in extra weight. They altered their positions frequently to avoid detection by the enemy. Much of their time was spent keeping guns and equipment dry and in perfect condition. During 1918 Arthur was with D battery in France and Flanders. Sources suggest he may have been engaged in repelling the German Spring offensive along the Western Front. This began on 21st March but eventually petered out with a German retreat. The outcome helped escalate the eventual capitulation of the Germans in November 1918.

Arthur died of meningitis on 27th March, 1918. He was 25 years old. In trench warfare conditions, many diseases were easily transmitted and often fatal.

He was buried at Tourgeville Military Cemetery, in Calvados, France. Ref: IB3. Arthur will have known of his brother William's death in 1916. Arthur's parents had now lost two sons in WW1.

Sergeant William Henry Harrison 1283 - West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

William Henry Harrison was born at Askham Richard in 1896, a younger brother of Gunner Arthur Harrison (see Arthur Harrison for family background). William began his working career as a junior clerk in a solicitor's office. He probably joined the army prior to the beginning of the war as his regimental number is only four digits, suggesting longer service. William was promoted to the rank of Sergeant (date unknown), also suggesting he either joined up before the war or had been promoted on the battlefield.

In his initial training William would have been stationed at York, moving to Gainsborough a month later. William was engaged in various theatres of war on the Western Front. In 1916 William's regiment was involved in the Battles of Albert, Bazentin Ridge, Pozières and Flers-Corcelette. As a young sergeant,

William had to demonstrate strong organisation and motivational skills and keep his men disciplined in terrible conditions.

Wikimedia

British Infantry – Morval Sept 29th 1916

The Somme Battles began on 1st July, 1916 and lasted until November that year. They resulted in major casualties on both sides. William was killed on 29th September, 1916. He was 20 years old. At the time, his regiment was engaged in battles to capture Morval Ridge and Thiepval village. These were key defensive positions. From 27-29th September, the Germans strafed the British trenches and let loose heavy bombardments which caused many casualties, probably including William. William Henry Harrison's body was not recovered.

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. Ref: pier and face 2A2C and 2D.

Private Edward Hick 27244 - Ist Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment

Edward Hick, Private 27244 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment was born in 1893, the second son of John Thomas and Jane Hick of 36, Bootham Row and Grove Road York. He had four brothers. Walter, the eldest, was blind. His younger brothers were Harold, Ernest and Frederick. Edward's father John was a mineral water carter, born in Scarborough. His mother came from Pocklington. Edward worked as a carriage maker on the Northern General Railway (see Harold Hick below for full family background). Edward enlisted at York and joined the 1st Wiltshire Regiment (date not known). The 'Wiltshires' were heavily engaged in the first Battle of the Somme in September 1916. Edward died of wounds on the 1st September ,1917. He was 24 years old. His regiment lost 5,200 men during the war.

King's Book

Private Edward Hick

Edward Hick is remembered on the Tyne Cot memorial in Belgium. Ref: panel 119-120. He is also remembered in the King's Book at York Minster, alongside his younger brother, Harold. It is likely that Edward would have known of Harold's death, a year before his own.

Harold Hick P.O/107960 - Royal Marine Light Infantry (HMS *Hampshire*)

Harold Hick was born in York in 1897, a younger brother of Edward Hick. In 1901, Harold was living with his parents and three brothers in Bootham Row. In 1911 Harold was aged 14, living with his aunt and uncle and working as an errand boy.

Harold enlisted for service with the Royal Marines Light Infantry (Portsmouth Division) on 7th October, 1914 to serve on HMS *Hampshire*. HMS *Hampshire* was a Devonshire-type cruiser, built on Tyneside in 1903. Harold will have participated in the Battle of Jutland in early June 1916. Two days after that famous sea battle, HMS *Hampshire* returned to her base at Scapa Flow, just off the Orkney Isles in Scotland. On June 5th 1916, HMS *Hampshire* sailed for Archangel in Russia. On board was Lord Kitchener (then Secretary of State for War) leading a delegation of his staff to meet the Russian Tsar. Kitchener's mission was to discuss the future of the war with the Russians, who were under severe pressure. Well respected by the European allies, Kitchener also had an illustrious military career. HMS *Hampshire* left Scapa Flow at 4.40 pm to rendezvous with two destroyers. Weather conditions were poor (force 9 gale and stormy seas). Struggling, the destroyer convoy returned home but HMS *Hampshire* continued.

Ancestry Public member photo

PO Harold Hick

At 7.40pm an explosion shook HMS *Hampshire*, which was two miles off the Orkney coast. The cruiser had struck a German mine, laid only a week before. It began to sink almost immediately and within 10-15 minutes, HMS *Hampshire* went down. The men had tried in vain to launch lifeboats but were hampered by the failure of the ship's generators and the weather. They had no option but to jump into freezing, stormy waters. There were only 12 survivors. 737 men drowned, including Lord Kitchener, his staff and Harold Hick. Harold was just 18 when he died.

Harold is remembered on several memorials. The King's Book (with his brother Edward) in York Minster, Shipton St School War Memorial and Portsmouth Naval Memorial Ref: Panel 22. He is also remembered on the Royal Navy and Marines War Graves Roll and the HMS *Hampshire* commemorative wall, alongside the Kitchener Memorial in Birsay, Orkney.

Private Frank (Hill) Pfluger 18243 - East Riding Yeomanry

Frank Hill (Pfluger) was born in 1899. The early years of WW1 were challenging for any emigrant family from Germany. Germans living in England often took on English surnames. Frank Hill's grandfather, Professor George Andrew Pfluger (Professor of Foreign Languages) came to England in March 1850. Professor Pfluger was a widower who married Emma Hill at Ilkley in 1851. His father was a wine maker from Württemberg, in the Black Forest. Professor Pfluger and Emma had five children, including Frank's father, Charles Arthur Pfluger (born 1863). The family resided in Lambeth, London. At the 1881 Census, the family had moved to York, living initially in St Mary's, Bishopshill then, in 1891, at Minster Yard. Professor Pfluger died in 1898.

Charles later married Lily Delittle and had four children. Frank was the eldest. At birth he was registered as Frank Hill Pfluger. In 1911, Frank was living with his family at 8, Bewley Street, York. He was 20 years old, working as an insurance clerk. Frank joined the East Riding of York Yeomanry at a date unknown. In April 1917, Frank boarded a hospital troopship, HMS *Arcadian*. At the time, *Arcadian* was on route from Thessaloniki to Alexandria with 1,335 troops and crew. It was escorted by a Japanese Navy (ally) destroyer. Soon after completing an evacuation drill, whilst 26 miles off the NE coast of Milos, *Arcadian* was hit by a single torpedo from German submarine *UC74*. The ship sank within six minutes, 279 were lost (19 of which were from the East Riding Yeomanry). Frank was drowned at sea on 15th April, 1917, aged 18. Among the dead was an eminent bacteriologist, Sir Marc Almond Ruffer, who had been advising on the control of an epidemic amongst troops in Thessaloniki.

HMS Arcadian- *torpedoed and sinking - 1917*

Imperial War Museum object 20514097

Frank Hill Pfluger is remembered on the Mikra Memorial, Kalamaria, Thessaloniki, Greece (no panel reference given in CWGC).

Lance Corporal William Luff Hodgson S/11499 – 7th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders

William Luff Hodgson was born in 1889 at Monk Bar Chapel in York. William's parents were William Luff Hodgson (senior) and Sarah Ellen Hodgson. It is assumed that William (senior) died and his mother re-married, since on the CWGC record his mother's name is Sarah Ellen Lickiss, of 27, Beaconsfield Street, Wigginton Road, York. No further information has been found about William's family background. William Luff Hodgson joined the 7th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders presumably in the earlier stages of WW1. He was promoted to Lance Corporal.

William was killed in action on 12th October, 1916. The regimental Roll of Honour indicates that, on that date, William's battalion was engaged in an attack on Snag Trench during the Battle of Le Transloy (1st-20th October, 1916). This was an area of solid German defensive trenches near the Butte de Warlencourt (a man-made ancient burial mound). The Butte was the subject of several failed attacks by the British 4th Army.

In October 1916, according to the war diary, conditions in this area were bad. There was low morale amongst the men because of constant shelling, cold rations, poor hygiene and inability to bury the dead who were strewn around the trenches. The weather was cold and it had rained constantly. Up to a third of the troops were suffering from diarrhoea. During the offensive on 12th October the objective was to capture Snag Trench and later the Butte. As soon as the 7th Seaforth Highlanders advanced towards enemy positions they immediately met a hail of machine gun fire. The situation was made worse by British heavy artillery fire falling short, missing Snag Trench. This is where William Luff Hodgson met his death, aged 27. An analysis of one of the officers was telling: The Butte itself would have been of little use to us for observation, but it had become an obsession. Everybody wanted it. It seems that the attack was one of those tempting local operations which are so costly and rarely worthwhile. But this is just the view of a Regimental Officer'. The Butte de Warlencourt was finally captured and held in February 1918.

William Hodgson has no known grave. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial. Ref: Pier and Face 15c.

Private Walter Holman 47111 - 20th (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

Walter Holman (also known as Walter Jacklin) was the son of Susan Jacklin, and brother-in-law of William Air (the first man named on the St Olave's WW1 memorial - see William Air for full family history). Walter's mother, Susan Jacklin, was born in 1885 at Downham, Norfolk. Her maiden name was Holman. In 1881, Susan became a servant/kitchen maid to a wealthy family in Belgravia, London. By 1891, she was single and living with her sister-in-law in St Mary's Bishopshill. She was 35 and had a son, Walter aged three, born at East Hardsley, Yorkshire in 1888. In 1892, Susan married Robinson Jacklin. They had a daughter, Frances Mary. By 1901 Susan was a widow, living with her two children, Frances Mary who was seven and Walter aged 13. Walter was working as an errand boy. By 1911, the family had moved to 44, Brunswick Street. Walter was working as a dealer/boot shop assistant. In early 1917, his half-sister Frances married William Air (named on the St Olave's WW1 memorial).

There are no definitive military records for Walter. He was presumed dead on June 5th, 1917, aged 29. If he had joined the 20th Tyneside Scottish Battalion in 1916, he would have fought on the Somme. A book charting the actions of Walter's battalion (*Tyneside Scottish* by John Sheen, 1998) suggests that, in early June 1917, the 20th Battalion were in the frontline undertaking a strenuous tour of duty near the town of Albert. They had just relieved the Royal Scots and were under constant heavy shell fire, resulting in major casualties and fatalities. It is likely that Walter lost his life during this part of the Arras offensive.

Walter died within months of his brother-in-law, William Air. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial, France. Ref: Bay 2-3.

Private Harold Jefferson 269070 - 10th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

Harold Jefferson was born in 1898. In the 1911 Census his family lived at 3, Walker Street, Marygate, York. Harold's father, George Thomas Jefferson, was a railway engine inspector. George and his wife, Ellen, had been married 24 years and were both 45. They had two other sons, Robert William, aged 20, a bankruptcy clerk, George Edward, aged 19, an apprentice engineer and one daughter, Nellie Jefferson, aged 16, an apprentice dressmaker. Harold was their youngest child, then aged 12 and at school. The couple had lost two children. All surviving children were baptised at St Olave's. Harold Jefferson enlisted with the 10th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). The battalion was part of Lord Kitchener's New Army, formed in Halifax in September 1914. From 1st July to November, 1917, the 10th Duke of Wellington's were engaged in heavy attacks at the third Battle of Ypres (the battle subsequently known as Passchendaele), one of the bloodiest battles of WW1, fought in and around the Ypres Salient in Belgium.

Harold's battalion was part of the 41st Army Division which on 21st September was involved in the Battle of Menin Road Ridge. The 41st Division participated in a series of attacks towards an area known as Bassvillbeek Copse. Advancing on boggy ground, the troops were subjected to heavy German bombardment and counter attacks. There were many casualties and fatalities. This is where Harold probably lost his life, aged 19, on September 21st, 1917. British casualties from 20-25th September amounted to 20,255.

Harold has no known grave. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial Ref: Panels 82-85 and 162.A.

Private Cecil Johnson 202247– 4th (23rd) Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment

Cecil Johnson was born in York on 1898. His parents were Fred and Annie Johnson of 28, Markham Crescent, Haxby Road, York. Fred was a schoolteacher. His wife Annie was born in Lucknow, India. Fred and Annie married at St Olave's Church on 8th July, 1895. At the time of the 1911 Census, they had been married 15 years and had six children of whom Cecil, then aged 13, was the eldest. Cecil had four younger sisters and one younger brother. Fred and Annie had also lost two children.

Cecil joined the 4th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, at a date unknown. Records are scanty because at the end of January 1918, as part of a major restructuring and due to reduced strength of numbers, the 4th Battalion Lincolnshire's were

disbanded and split between three other battalions. It is not clear where Cecil went but he died of wounds on 3rd April, 1918, aged 20.

Cecil is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery Ref: VIII.I.178. The inscription on Cecil's grave reads 'Nor morning dawns, nor evening falls, we think of thee'. Cecil's father, Fred, died in September 1919, in York.

Private Gilbert Johnson 1700 - 1st/5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

Gilbert Johnson was born in Fenton, Stoke on Trent in 1898. His father, Job Johnson, was an assurance superintendent. In 1911, Gilbert's family were living at 17, Portland Street, York. It is not known when they moved to York from Stoke on Trent. Gilbert was then aged 14 and he had one older and one younger brother. His parents had previously lost two children. Gilbert joined the 1st/5th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was posted to France on 15th April 1915. He landed at Boulogne for service on the Western Front. Gilbert was killed in action on 28th September 1915, aged 18. On this date the regiment was engaged at the Battle of Loos, which raged from 25th September to 5th October, 1915. This was the first large scale British action of WW1, in support of the French Army.

The battle took place on unsuitable ground (flat, full of mines and slag heaps – a French industrial mining area), before supplies and artillery were sufficient. The British Army had been committed to a battle not of its choosing and with unclear objectives. Despite initial successes, the battle became bogged down in attritional warfare. Significantly, Loos was where the British first used poison gas. During the offensive, 12 British battalions suffered 8,000 casualties in four hours. By 28th September British forces had sustained over 22,000 casualties, including three Major-Generals. Cecil died of wounds received in action at Boulogne, on 3rd April, 1918, aged 20.

Gilbert is buried and remembered at Essex Farm Cemetery. Ref: I.M.14 The inscription on his grave reads 'Worthy of everlasting love and remembrance'.

Major Richard Digby Johnson – 3rd Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers

King's Book

Major Richard Digby Johnson

Richard Digby Johnson was born 30th June, 1876 in York, the youngest son of Edward and Emma Jane Mayson-Johnson. He was baptised at St Olave's Church. His grandfather, Richard Johnson was a renowned racing judge and handicapper in England during the 1800s. In the 1881 Census, the Mayson-Johnson family lived at 28, St Mary's, York. Richard's father, then aged 32, was an ale and porter merchant in York. Richard had two older brothers and one younger sister. The family employed three servants. Richard's father, Edward Mayson-Johnson died in April 1887 on the Isle of Wight. In 1891, Richard, aged 14, was living with his mother. Richard was a scholar at St Peter's School in York from 1888-1893 and he is listed on the St Peter's School Great War Roll of Honour.

Prior to his Army career, Richard worked in the York City and County Bank, from the age of 17. He left the bank four years later, embarking on a tour around the world. During this time, the South African (Boer) War began. Richard left his tour, returned home and obtained a commission in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (1900). Richard served in the war until 1902 but was invalided home in 1902. In September 1904 Richard married Claudine Trower Johnson from Camoys, Braintree, Essex. They made their home in Braintree. Richard and Claudine had two children, Claudine Blanche, born 1905, and Richard Edward Digby, born 1911.

Remaining in the Army, Richard had been promoted Captain in 1905, then Major in December 1914, soon after the outbreak of WW1. He was posted to France and was wounded in April 1915 at St Julien. After a short period of sick leave, he returned to the Ypres Front on 10th May,1915. Major Richard Digby Johnson died a fortnight later, on 24th May 1915, near Ypres at the Battle of Bellwarde Ridge. Richard was 38 years old and left a widow and two children. He was mentioned in dispatches on 31st May, 1915. (London Gazette, June 22nd, 1915).

The regimental war diary describes the circumstances of his death: 'Bellwarde Ridge, 24th and 25th May,1915. The Germans held the ridge giving clear view of British lines. A serious attempt was made to take this ridge. Severe fighting took place and out of around 668 men, the Dubliners took about 647 casualties, including both Major R Digby Johnson, and his Lieutenant Colonel'. In a subsequent newspaper report, Richard was cited as being the victim of one of the first German poison gas attacks.

Major Digby Johnson is also commemorated in the York Roll of Honour - King's Book of York Heroes and on the Braintree and Bocking War Memorial which was erected in 1926. He has no known grave and is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial,Ypres. Ref: Panels 44 and 46.

Private John Wildman Kettlewell 10436 - 6th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment

John William Kettlewell (also known as John Wildman Kettlewell) was born in 1891 in York, the son of J T and K Kettlewell. John had three brothers, Stephen, Robert Cecil and Harold. All were in the Army and all survived the war. John enlisted with the Leicestershire Regiment, 6th Battalion, aged 23 on 24th August, 1914, more or less at the outbreak of the war. His occupation had been a druggist. John was posted to France soon after enlistment, on 21st September 1914. His military record indicates that on 31st March 1916 John was fined four days' pay for gambling in the billets (in the field). Four months later, John was killed in action on 22nd July, 1916. He was aged 25. On 7th July, 1916, 6th Battalion were transferred with the 110th Brigade to the 21st Division of the 4th Army. John's division was in action on the Somme. The exact battle in which he died and the circumstances are unknown.

John Wildman Kettlewell is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme. Ref: Pier and Face 2C and 3A.

Private Stephen Carter Lane 7682 - Depot (1st Battalion) – King's Own Scottish Borderers

Stephen Carter Lane was born in York in 1884. He was the second son of James and Harriet Lane. In 1891, Stephen lived with his parents and siblings in the parish of St Michael Le Belfrey, York at 38, Coffee Yard. He had an older brother Charles, and four sisters. His father James, was a bricklayers labourer. By 1901, the family had moved to 8, Percy Street, York. Harriet had given birth to two more sons. Stephen was then aged 16 and working as a chocolate maker.

On 19th November 1902, at age 18, Stephen enlisted with the Army as a Private in the King's Own Scottish Borderers. His occupation on joining was a labourer. At the time of the 1911 Census, Stephen was with his regiment in Lucknow, India. He remained there until the outbreak of WW1. As soon as a territorial unit arrived to take over the garrison, the regiment left India and departed for England in 1914. They joined the 87th Brigade, 29th Division of the Army. In March 1915 they were in action at Gallipoli, staying there until 1916. After this they went to France for action on the Somme. Later the regiment was engaged in the Arras Offensive (1917) and action at Cambrai. It is known that Stephen was a patient at the York Asylum in 1917, suffering from

C Carbert

Stephen Lane headstone (York Cemetery)

the effects of shell shock. Stephen died of heart failure on 2nd August, 1918, aged 33.

He is buried at York Cemetery Ref: Section A. Grave 9.3286. 1/2. The inscription on his headstone reads 'Duty Called, He answered'. He is also remembered in the King's Book.

Sergeant Frederick Samuel Leech 9592 - 7th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment

Frederick Samuel Leech was born in 1892 in Holbrook, Suffolk. In 1901, Frederick was living with his parents, Francis Leech (1863-1938) - a labourer in a manure works, and Sarah Elizabeth Leech. The family lived in Ipswich. Frederick had two siblings, an older brother, Francis James and an older sister, Florence Martha. In 1911, Frederick and his brother Francis (junior) were soldiers. Prior to the war, Frederick had served as 8074, with the Suffolk Regiment. He enlisted with the East Yorkshire Regiment on 8th September, 1914. Frederick married Doris J Smith in 1915 at Sculcoates, East Yorkshire. Their daughter, Zelma Doris Leech, was born on 3rd May 1917 in Withernsea, North Yorks, a year before her father died in France.

Frederick died on 5th May, 1918, aged 27. Information about Frederick's military record before his death has not been found. However, the war diary suggests he died in a location known as Aveluy Wood, near Albert. The British had re-taken Aveluy Wood from the Germans in April 1918, during the Spring Offensive. The diary states: '05/05/1918 Situation quiet. Weather was very dull. Two NCO's proceeded to reconnoiter enemy position at Aveluy Wood. Several shots were heard. These two NCOs failed to return. Lt Colonel G East-King DSO visited Dorset Bn. No Q in reference to the missing NCOs, nor was enquiry ordered. B7 (7th Bn East Yorkshire Reg) on usual night working parties. Nothing of interest occurred during this period'.

In 1920, when Frederick was posthumously awarded his medals, the entry on his medal and awards roll stated: 'Accepted Dead'.

Frederick is remembered on the Pozières Memorial. Ref: Panels 27 and 28. He is also remembered on the Ipswich War Memorial and the WW1 memorial at St Peter's Church, Ipswich and St Olave's, York.

Gilbert Lewis PO/1051(S) - 2nd R.M. Bn. R.N. Div., Royal Marine Light Infantry

Gilbert Lewis was born in York in 1892, the eldest son of Thompson Lewis, a printer, and Emma Lewis. In 1891 they lived at 5, Marygate, St Olave's parish. By 1901, Thompson and Emma Lewis, both aged 33 had moved to live with John and Jane Sayer (Emma's mother and father) at 1, Longfield Terrace, Bootham. They now had two sons, Gilbert, age 8, who was baptised at St Olave's on 18th December, 1892 and Leonard, age 5, baptised at St Olave's on 31st Jul,y 1895. By 1911 Thompson and Emma had four sons. Gilbert, aged 18, a railway clerk. Leonard, age 15, Norman, age 9 and Bernard, age 3, all at school. Gilbert Lewis was an ex-York Minster chorister. He also became an organist and choirmaster of St Luke's Church, York. Unfortunately, there are no records for Gilbert Lewis's military career, other than the naval medals record showing that Private PO/1051/S Gilbert Lewis died on 28th April, 1917 in France. He was 24 years old. There are, however, records of the action in which Gilbert was involved and where he would have lost his life.

Gilbert's 2nd Battalion took their first steps in the Battle of Arras, capturing the village of Gavrelle. On 28th April, 1917, another attack took place. The main objective was to breach the Arleux loop (a German defensive position on the Siegfried line). The southern part of this attack was undertaken by 2nd RMLI. It began at 4.45 pm. There was stiff resistance by the Germans, with heavy machine gun fire, rifle fire and snipers. By 7.25 pm, it was reported that the 2nd Battalion had taken its objectives. However, the survivors were left in an exposed salient with no support on either side and no back up. They were subject to counter attack. Despite signaling an SOS, there was no rescue party. The survivors desperately tried to get back to their trenches, many were wounded and killed. Those that lived were cut off, fighting on until they were taken prisoner. 2nd battalion lost six officers with three taken prisoner. The other ranks sustained 156 killed, 157 wounded (five later died) and 173 taken prisoner. The second battalion had also suffered 30 casualties in the run up to the attack, which despite initial gains, was an overall failure and probably ill planned. It was a black day for the Royal Marines.

Gilbert is remembered on the Arras Memorial. Ref: Bay 1. He is also remembered in the King's Book of Heroes at York Minster. He was posthumously awarded the British Victory and War Medals.

Private James Lickley 2304 - 1st/5th Bn, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

James Lickley was born in 1898 in York, the fourth son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Lickley. In 1911 the Lickley family lived at 26, Upper Newborough Street, York. It seems likely that James's father had died. James had three older brothers and one younger brother. It is assumed the Lickley children lived with their mother. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission record indicates that James was one of five brothers, who all volunteered in 1914. If correct (and if their ages at 1911 Census are accurate), John the eldest son would have been 22 or 23, Fred 21/22, William 20, James 17/18 and Arthur 16/17.

James Lickley joined the 1st/5th, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He was stationed initially at York, then Selby and Strensall and later back to York. On 15th April 1915 his Battalion was mobilised and departed for France, for service on the Western Front. The 1st/5th and 1/6th and 1/7th Battalions became the 146th Brigade of 49th Division. James died 30 May, 1915, aged just 17. Although not certain, it is likely that James died following battles at either Aubers Ridge or Artois, where his battalion were fighting in the front line. The date of his death and position of the cemetery suggests he died of wounds. The cemetery where James is interred (Le Trou Aid Post near Fleurbaix) contains the dead from the battlefields of Aubers Ridge, Loos and Fromelies. James died only 46 days after he arrived in France.

He is remembered at Le Trou, Aid Post Cemetery, Fleurbaix. Ref: K8. The inscription on his grave reads 'Let his reward be as great as his sacrifice'. Research on James's brothers indicates they survived the war.

Second Lieutenant John Wynne Lisle - 15th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

John Wynne Lisle was born in 1891, in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland. The eldest son of Thomas and Rose Lisle, he had four siblings, three born in York and one born in Glasgow. John's father, Thomas Lisle, was born in 1851 in Blanfort, Monmouthshire. His mother, Rose, was born in York. Thomas Lisle was a foreman at the chocolate works in York. In 1901, the Lisle family resided at 72, Dale Street, York.

By 1911, the family had moved to 38, Park Grove, York. Thomas was aged 60 and Rose was 42. John was working as an apprentice cabinet maker. There are no detailed records about John Wynne Lisle's military career. However, John was a commissioned Second Lieutenant with the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) at the time of his death.

John died on 3rd May, 1917. On this date John, together with his battalion, was in action at the Third Battle of the Scarpe (part of the larger Battle of Arras). The specific action involved the capture of Oppy Wood, a strategic objective which culminated in a German defensive victory. The main attack was staged on 3rd May, 1917, along the River Scarpe. The attacking battalions formed up around midnight on 2nd May, in bright moonlight. The Germans spotted them quickly and sent a barrage of heavy artillery fire in their direction. Regardless, the attack commenced at 3.45 am. Almost immediately the troops were met with a hail of machine gun and rifle fire. Unable to find their way through strong barbed wire defences, they were forced back. Little was gained. The attack was abandoned, sustaining heavy losses. This is most likely the Battle in which John met his death.

John is remembered on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais. Ref: Bay 9.

Gunner James Watson Maxwell 162513 -129th Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

James Watson Maxwell was born in April 1890 in York, the second child of James and Elizabeth Maxwell. James (junior) had three sisters, Mary, the eldest child and two younger sisters, Margaret and Janet. His father (born in Penzance, Cornwall) had his own business as a merchant tailor. In 1911, James Watson Maxwell was single and helping his father in the family business. The family lived at 17, Park Grove. James enlisted in Acomb, joining the 129th Heavy Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. The 129th first went to France in 1916. The RGA grew into a very large component of the British Army as the war progressed. Heavy Batteries were armed with large calibre guns and howitzers, positioned some way behind the front lines. They had immense destructive power. The 129th Heavy Battery was part of number 92 Mobile Brigade of the RGA in the Third Army.

Billion Graves

Gunner Maxwell's headstone

It is likely that James died following the Battle of Havrincourt (fought 12th September, 1918). Havrincourt (a British/New Zealand army success) was one of many battles fought by allied forces during the 1918 100 days offensive. During the period 8th August to 11th November 1918, the allies launched a series of offensives on the Western Front. The objective was to push the Germans out of France beyond the Hindenburg Line. The 92nd Mobile Brigade of the Third Army were engaged in action at Havrincourt. The date of James's death and the position of his brigade at the time suggest that this battle was where he was wounded, dying of his wounds two days later on 14th September, 1918. James is buried and remembered at Sunken Road Cemetery, Boisleux-St-Marc. Ref: Plot I.F.3.

Lance Corporal Alexander Noel Morley 10441 - 8th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

Courtesy of Noel's living relatives

Lance Corporal Noel Morley – Circa 1916

Alexander Noel Morley was born in York in 1886, the youngest son of Henry Morley of York, printer and stationer, and his wife Jane, who was born in Broadford, Isle of Skye. The family lived in Bootham. Noel had two older brothers Frank and William Henry. In 1910, Henry Morley died and the family business was taken on by his eldest son, Frank. The family now lived at 3, Earlsborough Terrace. They worshipped at St Olave's church. Noel was educated at Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School in York. In 1911, aged 23, he was helping his brother to run the family business in Grape Lane.

Noel enlisted with the 8th Battalion Royal Fusiliers on 26th April 1916. His regiment served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 15th August, 1916 as part of the 12th Eastern Division of the 4th Army. Whilst on leave, before departing for the western front, Noel married Mabel Barton at St Olave's church on 17th July, 1916. Research has identified that the 12th division of the 4th army was in action at the Battle of Le Transloy (Somme) from 1st-18th October, 1916. This battle covered a period of fighting in terrible weather, on a cold, muddy and flooded battlefield. The conditions troops endured became just as formidable an enemy as the Germans. Even General Haig described the situation as a 'morass'. Noel sustained fatal wounds during this battle, dying a few days later. A newspaper article reporting his death, indicated that Noel died from a rifle bullet to the shoulder, which also damaged his spine. He died in hospital at Le Touquet on 22nd October, 1916, aged 30. He had been at the front for just six weeks.

He is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas De Calais, France: Ref V111. C.3. Noel and Mabel had been married for less than three months at the time of his death.

Private George Myton 46148 - 8th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment

George Myton was born in 1885 in York, the elder son of Thomas and Emily Myton. George had two siblings, an older sister, Florence and younger brother, Arthur. His father Thomas (born in York) was a groom by occupation. In 1891 the Myton family lived in Clifton. There appear to be no records of the family in 1901 and 1911. At a date unknown, George enlisted at York. He may have joined more than one regiment since there are records of him as 111747 RASC. During WW1 George served as private 46148, with the 8th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.

The Leicestershire Regiment was raised in September 1914, as part of Lord Kitchener's new army. They were transferred to 110th Brigade, 37th Division of the Fifth Army in 1915. In 1918 they fought on the Somme, during the spring offensive of the German Army. This offensive was code named 'Operation Michael'. The first day of the operation was brutal (as depicted in the play 'Journey's End'). Over 38,000 British casualties were sustained with over 8,000 deaths. Around 21,000 troops were taken prisoner. The date of 21st March 1918, (corresponding with George's death), remains the second worst date in British military history in terms of the scale of losses in action.

George Myton has no known grave and is remembered on the Pozières Memorial. Ref: Panels 29 and 30.

Private Thomas Yeoman Newbegin 10112 - East Riding Yeomanry

Thomas Yeoman Newbegin was born in 1894 in York. He was baptised at Newton Kyme. Thomas was the eldest son of Reuben and Annie Newbegin of 35, Bootham Row, Bootham, York. In 1911, Thomas was one of ten children. His parents had lost one child. The Newbegin family were then living at 5, Lower Ebor Street. Thomas was aged 17, working as a wooden box maker/labourer. No military records for Thomas's service with the East Riding Regiment have been discovered. He died on 23rd April, 1915, aged 21.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres. Ref: Panel 21 and 3

Second Lieutenant John Sherwood Newman - 6th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment

Second Lieutenant John Sherwood Newman was born in 1895 in York, the son of Philip Lewin Newman and Janet Newman. John's father was an insurance actuary. He had a younger sister, Phyllis, and brother, Geoffrey. In 1901 the family lived at St Paul's Square, York. By 1911, the family had moved to 4, Bootham Grange. There are no specific records for John's military career with the East Yorkshire Regiment. On 7th August, 1915 John's battalion landed at Gallipoli, with 22 officers (including John) and 750 other ranks. Two days later, on 9th August, attached to the 32nd Brigade, they were already in action. Their attack objective was Tekke Tepe, the largest hill overlooking Sulva Bay. They were expected to take and hold a position running from 'Chocolate Hill to Sulajak'. The battalion were ordered to advance. They were met with ferocious machine gun and rifle fire on all sides. The report of Lieutenant Eric Halse, who survived, describes the situation:

Wikipedia (NZ Archives AAAC 898 NCWA

Landing at Gallipoli – Charles Dixon.

'We were supposed to attack before dawn but owing to orders being late it was broad daylight. The attacked position had not been reconnoitred, the men were dead beat, having had no sleep since we landed, and were utterly done. We were allowed to march half the way up the slope by the Turks – then we received it in the neck. They had machine guns enfilading us from the left and a party of troops enfilading us from the right. They had us in a trap, pure and simple. We lost officers and 300 men in half an hour. Human nature could stand no more. One company was captured altogether, the rest turned and ran'.
Source: *First World War 'Day by Day'* 2018.

The failure of the attacks in this area had terrible consequences for the 6th Battalion. Within three days they had lost 15 officers (two killed, five wounded and six missing) and 347 other ranks killed. John Sherwood Newman died in this attack, on 9th August 1915. He was 21 years old. John has no known grave. He is remembered on the Helles Memorial. Ref: Panel 52-53.

William Henry Nicholls, Driver 135025 - 139th Battery, 159th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

William Henry Nicholls was born in 1891 in Middlesborough, the eldest son of John Henry and Annie Elizabeth Nicholls. In 1891, William's family lived at North Street in York. By 1901 they were living at Rougier Street, later moving to Clayton Street, Marygate. William was one of seven children. He had two younger brothers (Arthur and George) and three sisters (Lily, Emily and Annie). William's father was a railway carriage painter. In 1911 William, aged 20, had followed the same occupation as his father. In 1914 William married Mildred Bulmer at St Clement's Church in Bishopshill. The couple had a son, Walter, who died, aged 8 months in 1915. William joined the Royal Field Artillery (139th Siege Battery, 159th Brigade) as a driver. The RFA provided artillery support for the Army at the front line and had to be mobile and responsive. As a driver, William would have been responsible for transporting guns and ammunition by horse and mule. His role would have been to drive and control the animals.

William's battery was deployed on the Western Front during 1916-17. He died in the field on 20th October, 1917, aged 26, possibly at the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). His younger brother, George, died a year later. William is buried and remembered at Artillery Wood Cemetery. Ref: V.A.3. Mildred remarried in 1923.

Pioneer George Nicholls 378664 - Royal Engineers Signal Service (Bedford), Royal Engineers

Pioneer 378664, George Nicholls was born in 1898, the younger brother of William Nicholls. George was attested on 21st November, 1917. A GPO linesman by trade, he was assigned to R.E Signal Service. He had been called up on 25th October, 1918, to report to Bedford on that date. His older brother, William Henry, had been killed on 20th October, 1917. George held the rank of pioneer, established in 1912, as a means of addressing skills shortages, with an enhanced rate of pay. However, sometime between 25th October and 3rd November 1918, George contracted influenza. He was admitted to Bedford Military Hospital on 3rd November, 1918. He died at 0300 hours on 5th November, 1918, as a result of pneumonia. He had been in the army for only 11 days. The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-20 infected around 500 million people worldwide (about 30% of the world's population). It claimed the lives of between 20 and 50 million people. By contrast, WW1 killed 11 million military personnel and around 7 million civilians.

George is buried at York Cemetery. Grave Ref: A62708. He is also remembered on the Micklegate Trinity National School Memorial and in the King's Book.

Private Lawrence Lancelot Overton 42910 - 10th Battalion, Essex Regiment (Formerly of Bedfordshire Regiment (Private 10662)

Lawrence Lancelot Overton was born in April 1899 in York. He signed up at Dover with the 10th Battalion, Essex Regiment but he had been in the Bedfordshire Regiment prior to this. Unfortunately research has drawn a blank on Lawrence's family and military history. His regiment had been raised in 1914 as part of Kitchener's New Army. The 10th Essex were in action during the Spring Offensive of 21st March to 31st July, 1918. This period was a crisis point for the allied Fifth Army, which was driven back across the Somme battlefields. Lawrence died during the early phase of the offensive, on 26th April in 1918.

Lawrence Lancelot Overton has no known grave and is remembered on the Pozières Memorial near Albert Ref: Panel 51-52. The memorial contains many of those who fell in action during the Spring Offensive, described above.

Private Walter Pallister 38710 - 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment

Walter Pallister was born in 1892 in York. He was the eldest son of George and Annie Pallister. Walter was one of six children. His father, George Pallister (born Darlington in 1858), was a painter with the North Eastern Railway (NER). Walter's mother Annie, was born in Fairburn, Yorkshire in 1860. In 1911 Walter was 19, single and working as a fitter with NER. The Pallister family were living at 16, Oxford Street, Holgate Road, York. Walter married (Mrs A E Pallister maiden name and marriage date not known). The couple lived at 15, Percy Street in York. There are no records of any children. Walter's military records are equally scanty. He joined the 2nd/4th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment (possibly early 1915). His regiment was a second line unit raised at Reading in 1914, as part of Lord Kitchener's New Army. He served in France from 13th April, 1915. In 1918, Walter's battalion saw action at the Battles of St Quentin, the Somme, Lys and Picardy. The date of his death corresponds with the German Spring Offensive. The circumstances of his death are unknown.

He was killed in action on 29th April, 1918, aged 26. Walter was buried at St Venant-Robecq Road, British Cemetery. Ref: I.D.14. The cemetery contains many dead from the Battlefield of Lys in April 1918. This is possibly where Walter lost his life.

Private George Edwin Pollard 49296 - 10th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own)

George Edwin Pollard was born in 1895 in York, the third son of Robert and Elizabeth Pollard of 33, Bootham Square, York. He was husband to Daisy Martha Pollard from Crowthorne, Berkshire. George's father, Robert, was an iron moulders fettler. George had several siblings: two older brothers John and James, two younger brothers Walter and Charles and a younger sister, Elizabeth. In 1911, George was 16 and working as a pork butcher's apprentice. Walter was a grocer's assistant. No military records have been discovered for George. He had joined the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) and was killed on 21st March 1918, ten months after his younger brother. He was 23 years old. George's regiment lost 12,700 men through the course of the war. He would almost certainly have known of his younger brother Walter's death, in May 1917.

George is remembered on the Arras Memorial. Ref: Bay 4, Pas de Calais.

Private Walter Pollard 29106 - 'C' Company, 7th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment

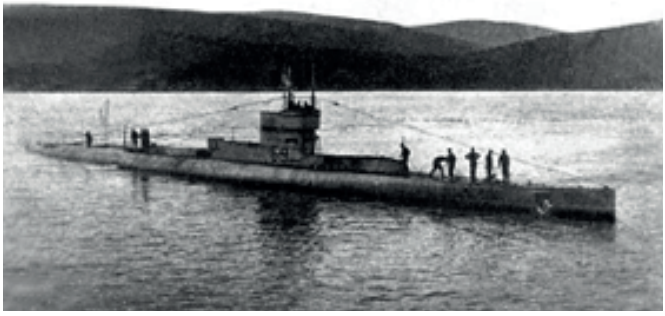
Walter Pollard was born in York in 1897, the fourth son of Robert and Elizabeth Pollard. He was the younger brother of George Edwin Pollard. Military information is scanty. Walter enlisted in York in 1915, joining the 7th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment. The battalion was initially retained in England for home defence. In July 1915, Walter's battalion sailed for France, disembarking at Boulogne, for service on the Western Front. They saw action in Ypres and the Somme (particularly the Battles of Albert and Delville Wood). In 1917 they moved to Arras. Walter was most probably killed in the Battle of Arras.

He died near Fampoux on 13th May, 1917, aged 20. His brother George was killed ten months later. Robert and Elizabeth had now lost two young sons to the war.

Walter is remembered, alongside his brother George, on the Arras Memorial. Ref: Bay 4 and 5. He is also remembered in the King's Book, held in York Minster, which commemorates over 1,441 men and two women from York who were killed during WW1.

Lieutenant Fred Richardson - HM Submarine G9 – Royal Naval Reserve

Fred Richardson was born in 1892 and baptised at St Thomas's Church York, on 28th June 1892. He was the second son of William and Mary Isabella Douglas Richardson. Fred's father was a glass and china dealer. His mother Mary was born in Durham. In 1901 the Richardson children included Alan aged 18, a mechanical engineer, Fred aged 8 and Lily aged 7, both at school. In 1911 Fred was an apprentice merchant seaman. Two other children had been born to Fred's parents. The Richardson family were living at 13, Bootham Crescent in York.



Submarine G9 *at Scapa Flow*

Wikipedia: Adrian Harvey -The North Magazine.

It has not been possible to discover details of Fred's war service at sea. There are, however, accounts of his death which, together with others, was the subject of a naval investigation. Fred was on board HM submarine *G9* as a Royal Naval Reserve Officer. In command of *G9* was Lieutenant Commander 'The Honourable Byron Plantagenet Cary'. *G9* sailed out of Scapa Flow on 9th September, 1917 to patrol an area between the Shetland Isles and Norway.

HMS *Pasley* (Royal Navy M Class destroyer) was patrolling the area at the same time. She was tasked with finding and escorting merchant ships from Aspo Fjord to Lerwick. Both vessels were aware of the presence of a German U boat in the vicinity. *G9* Commander Cary spotted what he thought was the German U boat and gave the order to fire two torpedoes. The first hit at an angle, failing to detonate. The second missed. On board HMS *Pasley* Watch Officer, Midshipman Frank Wallis, saw what he thought was a German U boat fire two torpedoes at *Pasley*. He turned HMS *Pasley* towards the U Boat at full speed and prepared to ram the 'enemy' boat, which was, in fact, Submarine *G9*.

By this time, Commander Cary, realising his error, turned on his arc lamp in an attempt at signalling. But he was too late. Despite last ditch efforts to halt the ramming operation, with the propeller in full reverse, HMS *Pasley* hit G9 and cut the submarine in half. *G9* sank in under one minute with 30 men on board. There was one survivor, Stoker William Drake. He reported seeing only two men get clear of *G9* before it vanished.

Barrow Submariners Association.

Crew of G9 *(Fred Richardson will be one of the younger officers in the middle row, (possibly first left with crew members hand on right shoulder - unconfirmed)*

Commander Ramsey of HMS *Pasley* was in the ship's chartroom when the dud torpedo glanced off his ship. He rushed to the bridge and heard a crew member shout 'She's one of ours' but it was too late to prevent the collision. The damage to HMS *Pasley* was minor and she was able to resume her duties. The naval investigation ruled that no-one was to blame for the tragic accident.

Lieutenant Fred Richardson was drowned with the other crew members of *G9* on September 16th, 1917. He was 25.

Fred is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Ref Panel 27-9.

Private James Alfred Rigney L/1195 - 'C' Squadron, 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers

James Alfred Rigney was born in 1890 in Sheffield. There are no census records regarding James and his family in 1891, 1901 or 1911. In July 1910 James married Ethel Rankin Heppel (born 1890/1891), who was baptised at St Olave's Church on 23rd April, 1890. In 1911 Ethel Rigney was living at her parents' home (68, Union Terrace) with her daughter Ethel Kathleen Rigney aged 3 months, and the rest of the Heppel family. James had joined the Army at a date unknown (he was possibly from an Irish army family). He joined the 5th Irish Lancers before the outbreak of WW1 and was in France on active service by 15th August, 1914. There are no specific records of his time in the regiment other than medal cards.

James died of shrapnel wounds on 20th October, 1914, aged 24, at home. He was posthumously awarded the British and Victory Medals and the 1914 Star with clasp (which demonstrates he was under fire in 1914). Around the period of his death, his regiment, the 5th (RI) Lancers had been engaged in a significant action along with the 6th (RI) Lancers and the 4th Hussars. On 12th October, 1914, during the early 'Race to the Sea' phase of WW1, the regiment was approaching the Mont des Cats area, near the Franco-Belgian border. A nearby abbey was believed to be fortified by the Germans. The 5th, 6th Lancers and

4th Hussars were ordered to occupy the abbey on foot. After heavy fighting they achieved this objective. Amongst the German wounded was Prince Maximillian Von Hesse, a great grandson of Queen Victoria and nephew of Kaiser Wilhelm. The Prince died of his wounds and was originally buried in the abbey grounds by the 5th Lancers. Later that day the 5th Lancers and the other British troops were forced to retreat by an overwhelming contingent of the German infantry. The troops had to take cover from gun and shell fire during the retreat and many were killed or wounded. Later in October the 5th Lancers were engaged in the first battles of Yser and Ypres.

It is possible but not certain that James Rigney was wounded in one of the actions above. He was brought home, dying of his wounds there.

He is buried in York Cemetery. Ref: 7.601. The inscription on his headstone reads 'He died for all, greater love hath no man'. Interestingly, the last British man to be killed in action during WW1 was from the 5th Lancers.

Private Alfred Ringrose 40024 - 9th (Northern Irish Horse) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers

Alfred Ringrose was born in 1882 in York. He was the eldest son of George Ringrose and Jane Ringrose. Alfred was baptised at St Saviour's Church, York on 30th July, 1882. Alfred had four siblings: George, Robert, Clara and John. In 1907, Alfred signed up with the 1st East Riding of Yorkshire GA as a private (3233). There are no army records. In 1908, aged 25, he joined the West Riding Royal Garrison Artillery, SR (1104). His occupation on joining up was as a labourer, with Terry and Sons, York and his address was 13, North Street. His attestation date was 16th June, 1908. In 1911 Alfred had married Eva, aged 22, from Ripon. The couple had a daughter, Clara, aged 1 at the time of the census. They lived in a two-roomed dwelling: 3, Billingham Yard, Wellington Road, York. Later, Alfred was transferred to the Princess Victoria's 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers. Research indicates that the 9th Battalion were mauled in the German Spring Offensive in March 1918 and again in April 1918. These actions came close to destroying the battalion completely. It is likely Alfred was killed as a result. Alfred died in France on 29th March, 1918.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Pozières Memorial. Ref: panels 76 and 77.

Private Angus Ross 44614 - 49th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Angus Ross was born in 1876 at Uig, Isle of Skye, Inverness, in the parish of Snizort. Angus was the third son of Donald and Jane Ross. He was one of seven children. He had two older brothers, Donald Jr and John, three older sisters, Bella, Sarah and Mary Jane, one younger sister, Maggie, and a younger brother Neil. Records of the family in 1911 and Angus's marriage to Maggie have not been discovered. Military records are also sparse. Angus joined the 49th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) at a date unknown. The infantry branch of the MGC was the largest grouping, seeing action in the main theatres of WW1. The Corps commonly operated in advance of the front line. They had a reputation for heroism and bravery in action and also a reputation for sustaining high rates of casualties, earning them the nickname 'The Suicide Club'. Angus Ross died on 12th April, 1918, aged 42. Angus probably fell at the Lys offensive (known as the 4th Battle of Ypres), fought 7th-29th April, 1918. This action was associated with the Spring Offensive of the German Army. General Ludendorff had ordered his army to capture Ypres and to push the British Army and its Allies, back to the Channel.

Angus has no known grave. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Ref: Panel 154 to 159 and 163. His connection with St Olave's has not been established.

Corporal Duncan Savage 39796 - 'D' Battery, 124th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

Christopher Duncan Savage was born in 1889 in Coxwold near York. He was the second of seven children born to John Henry Savage (born in Coxwold 1856) and Annie Savage (born Ross-shire, Scotland 1859). In 1911 Duncan, aged 22, was working as a house painter. His father had died between 1901 and 1911. Annie Savage moved to 29, Sycamore Terrace in St Olave's Parish. Duncan enlisted for the Army at York, joining the Royal Garrison Artillery and later transferring to the Royal Field Artillery at the end of his training. He left England for France on 30th August, 1915. Corporal Duncan Savage died in action on 25th August, 1918, aged 29. There are no indications of the circumstances of his death. However, 'D' Battery RFA was engaged in the Amiens Offensive in August 1918, specifically, the second Battle of Bapaume (21st August to early September 1918). The Cemetery at Achiet contains the dead from battlefields associated with this offensive.

Duncan is buried and remembered at Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension. Ref: IV. G.10. The inscription on his headstone reads 'Thy will be done'. His grave was subject to exhumation and re-burial post 1919.

Private George Sawdon T/294533 - Army Service Corps

George William Sawdon was born in 1876 near Whitby. George was the son of a Whitby watchmaker and jeweller. On 22nd October, 1899, George married Rose Emily Carr, at St Lawrence's Church, York. George and Rose had two children: Doris, born in 1900 and John Henry, born in 1903. In 1901 George was a greengrocer's assistant, living at Water Fulford Escrick. He was then aged 25. There is a full attestation and short service enlistment for George Sawdon (then living at 15, Hetherton Street, Marygate, York), dated 7th December, 1915 but after this point his service experience becomes complicated with several changes and postings. He was initially posted to the Army Reserve on 8th December, 1915, then the 5th Battalion Durham Light Infantry (22nd June, 1916), next, to the provisional battalion Durham Light Infantry (24th June, 1916) and, lastly, the Army Service Corps (29th December 1916). George was posted again in March 1917, remaining with the Army Service Corps.

On 25th April, 1917, George embarked on SS *Manitou* from Southampton via Le Havre and Marseilles, to disembark at Alexandria on 1st June, 1917. He was attached as a driver with the Army Service Corps to the 231st Machine Gun Corps. On 24th February 1918, he joined the 231st Machine Gun Corps for duty. It seems he was posted to Palestine. George was admitted to hospital on 10th October, 1918 in Palestine. By 13th October George was seriously ill with malaria, dying of the condition on 14th October, 1918, at No 6, Casualty Clearing Station (Israel). It is unclear which action preceded his illness. He was 42 years old, leaving a widow and two children.

George is buried at Ramleh Military Cemetery, Israel. Ref: Z.36.

Arthur Duncombe Shafto (DSO) 'D' Coy - 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots

Du Rigney Roll

Captain Arthur Duncombe Shafto – Royal Scots

Arthur Duncombe Shafto was born in London 8th April 1880, the son of Charles Ottiwell Duncombe Shafto and Helena Rosa (nee Wilkinson) of 9, South Baily, Durham. Arthur was a King's scholar at the Durham School from 1893-8. He was a keen rower, graduating through the third and second boats to the first boat crew, then serving as captain of the first boat crew in his final year. He went as a gentleman cadet to Sandhurst and obtained his commission to the Northumberland Fusiliers in October 1899. He served as Lieutenant in the Boer War and took part in several operations including in the Orange Free State, the Transvaal and Cape Colony. In December 1900, he was reported as taken prisoner at the Battle of Nooitgedacht. He was awarded the Queen's Medal with three Clasps and King's Medal with two Clasps.

In 1901, Arthur was created Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, also in recognition of his service in South Africa. His brother Charles died at Spion Kop in the same war. Arthur was mentioned in dispatches on two occasions during the Boer War.

He represented his regiment at the Coronation of Edward VII on 9th August 1902. In 1904 Arthur married Marguerite Cecil Catherine, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Stapleton (19th Hussars). The couple had two children, Mark, born in 1905 and Betty, born in 1906. Arthur was Staff Captain (Border Group Regimental Districts) from 1905-1907 and was later Staff Captain No 5 District (York) from 1908-1910.

He transferred from the Northumberland Fusiliers to the Royal Scots around 1908 and was serving with his battalion when he was killed in action at Audincourt, on 26th August, 1914. The Battle of Le Cateau, involved the retreat of II Corps after the Battle of Mons (the first major battle of WW1). Here Arthur's regiment was part of the 8th Brigade, facing a German assault between the villages of Inchy and Caudry. They were heavily shelled. Arthur most probably died from shrapnel wounds. He was 34.

Initially buried in plot 1.5.A at Audincourt Cemetery, his remains were moved to Caudry British Cemetery (Nord, France) in 1924. Ref II.F.23. The inscription on his headstone reads: RIP 'Let perpetual light shine upon him'. Arthur is also commemorated on the Newbury WW1 Memorial.

Corporal Tom Skelly 15099 - 2nd Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

Tom Skelly was born in 1886 in York. His parents, John and Hannah Skelly were both born in York around 1855. By 1881 they were married and living at 27, Barker Hill, St Maurice, York. They had a daughter, Mary Ellen, and a son, John. John Skelly senior was employed as an iron works labourer. He died in 1887, aged 32, in York. In 1901, Hannah was living with her children, Mary, John, Albert and Tom, at 9, Walker Street, Bootham, in the parish of St Olave. Tom, then aged 15, was an accountant's clerk. In 1911, the family lived at the same address but only Hannah and sons, John and Tom (aged 25) remained at home. Tom must have joined the army at an early stage since his medal card shows he was in France on active service by 28th July, 1915. He was soon promoted to corporal, probably due to his relative maturity as a soldier.

Corporal Tom Skelly served with the 2nd Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. He died of wounds on 1st October, 1916. He was 30 years old. Given the date of Tom's death and his burial at Sofia Military Cemetery, it is likely Tom was engaged in action and wounded on the Salonika/Macedonian Front in October 1916. The 2nd Battalion NF's were part of the 28th Division of the Army. They had been sent with other divisions, and allied forces, to help the Serbs resist Bulgarian and Austrian aggression. The terrain was rough and unforgiving, with many hills and mountains. So much barbed wire was laid that one geographical area was known as the 'birdcage'. This front was a lesser known but brutal theatre of WW1. By the end of the fighting, the allies had sustained 50,000 casualties. Another 80,000 died or were evacuated due to sickness.

Given the date of Tom's death and the information available, it is known that Tom was engaged in action on the Salonika/Macedonian front in October 1916. He was wounded and taken prisoner, dying subsequently of his wounds. Tom is buried at Sofia Military Cemetry, Bulgaria. Ref I.F.2

Private John Clement Smith 41632 - 12th/13th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers

John Clement Smith was born in 1890 at Crayke, near Easingwold, Yorkshire. He was the eldest son of John T Smith and Ann Knowles. His parents had 9 children within 15 years, John was the only boy. The Smith family lived at Easingwold in 1891. By 1901 they had moved to 14, Bootham Row. John's father was an electric crane driver with the North Eastern Railway. In 1911 John Clement Smith, then aged 20, was living with his family at 20, Bootham, and working as a pork butcher's assistant. Also living at their home were three German nationals, also working as pork butcher's assistants. The family employed a servant. It is possible

that if the German nationals remained in York after the outbreak of war they could have been interned until the war ended.

There is evidence that John Clement Smith signed up for army service sometime in 1914 as 24913 (Private JC Smith) West Yorkshire Regiment. He later joined the 12th/13th Northumberland Fusiliers as Private 41632. John died of wounds on 5th October, 1917. The regimental war diary on the days prior to his death, explains in detail about a battle around Zonnebeke just outside Ypres. The regiment lost seven named officers, 44 other ranks and 320 other ranks wounded. This was fought during the second phase of the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) from 7th June to 10th November 1917. It is likely that John lost his life through wounds sustained here.

John is buried and remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Ref: XX.K.2.

Private Jubilee James Taylor G/52178 - 3rd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers

Jubilee James Taylor was born in Queen Victoria's Jubilee year (1897) at Temple Hirst, near Selby, the third son of Joseph and Sarah Taylor. His father, Joseph, was a railway signalman with North Eastern Railway (NER). In 1901 the Taylor family lived at 25, Station Yard, in Temple Hirst. Station Yard was possibily a housing area for railway workers and their families. James Taylor was then aged 3. He had six siblings - two older brothers, three older sisters, and one younger brother. By 1911 Sarah had become a widow. She and her children had moved to 11, Allan Street, Bootham in the parish of St Olave. Their home was a four-roomed dwelling. Four of her children were at home: Sidney, then an assistant signalman, Mary, a printer packer, James and William, both at school. Later, the Taylor family moved again to 11, Walker Street, Marygate. James was attested on the date of his 18th birthday in 1915. He joined the East Yorkshire Regiment as Private 27631, later transferring to the Royal Fusiliers as G5/52178. There are no further service records for James.

C Carbert

Headstone of James Taylor (York Cemetery)

Private J James Taylor died of malaria (contracted in Mesopotamia) on 10th July 1918 in the 2nd General Hospital London'. He was aged 21.

James is buried at York Cemetery. Ref 159-20123. His mother Sarah paid for the following inscription on his grave 'He dwells with us, in memory still'.

Index

5th (Royal Irish) Lancers, 41–42

age at enlistment, 16–17, 48n
Air, William, 8, 25, 48n
Amiens, Battle of (1918), 43
Ancre Heights, Battle of (1916), 17
Army Service Corps, 44
Arras, Second Battle of (1917), 16, 17, 19, 25, 31, 33, 39
Artois, Second Battle of (1915), 32
Atkinson, Lawrence Alfred, 8
Aubers Ridge, Battle of (1915), 32

Backhouse, Arthur Joseph, 9, 48n
Backhouse, John, 9, 48n
Bapaume, Second Battle of (1918), 43
Bardy, Charles, 10
Bean, Charles Frederick, 10
Bellwarde Ridge, Battle of (1915), 28
Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), 17
Braithwaite, Arthur, 11
brothers, 8, 9, 11–13, 16–17, 20–22, 25, 26–27, 29, 31, 37, 39
Busby, Harold Wycliffe Camden, 12–13, 48n
Busby, Reginald George Camden, 11–12, 48n

Canadian Infantry, 17, 19
Carter, Colin Arthur, 13
casualties, total, 4, 37
Coggan, George, 13–14
Cole, Job Henry, 14
Cook, John, 15
Cossins, William (Willie), 15
Coutts, Norman, 16, 48n

Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 26
Duncan, Kenneth McRae, 17
Duncan, Phillip McRae, 16–17, 48n
Durham Light Infantry, 11–12

East Riding Yeomanry, 23, 35
East Yorkshire Regiment, 13–14, 30, 36
enfilading fire, 18, 36
enlistment age, 16–17, 48n
Essex Regiment, 38

Fotheringham, Robert, 17

Gallipoli Campaign (1915-16), 36
gas, use of, 27, 28
German emigrants, 23
Goodwill, Cyril, 18–19

Harland, W.P. (Walter Percy), 19
Harrison, Arthur, 20
Harrison, William Henry, 20–21
Havrincourt, Battle of (1918), 33
Hesse, Prince Maximillian von, 42
Hick, Edward, 21, 48n
Hick, Harold, 21, 48n
historical sources, 5
HMS *Arcadian*, 23
HMS *Hampshire*, 21
HMS *Pasley*, 40–41
HM Submarine *G9*, 40–41
Hodgson, William Luff, 24
Holman, Walter, 25, 48n
Hundred Days Offensive (1918), 43

illness, deaths from, 8, 20, 30, 37, 44

Jefferson, Harold, 26
Johnson, Cecil, 26–27
Johnson, Gilbert, 27
Johnson, Richard Digby, 28
Jutland, Battle of (1916), 22

Kettlewell, John Wildman, 29
King's Own Scottish Borderers, 29–30
Kitchener, Lord, 22, 26, 35, 38

Lane, Stephen Carter, 29–30, 48n
Leech, Samuel, 30

Leicestershire Regiment, 29, 35
Le Transloy, Battle of (1916), 24, 34
Lewis, Gilbert, 31
Lickley, James, 32, 48n
Lincolnshire Regiment, 26–27
Lisle, John Wynne, 32–33
London Regiment (London Scottish), 12–13
Loos, Battle of (1915), 14, 27
Lys, Battle of (1918), 38, 43

Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 10, 43
Maxwell, James Watson, 33
Menin Road Ridge, Battle of (1917), 26
mentions in dispatches, 16, 28
Morley, Alexander Noel, 34
Myton, George, 35

Newbegin, Thomas Yeoman, 35
Newman, John Sherwood, 36
Nicholls, George, 37, 48n
Nicholls, William Henry, 37, 48n
Northumberland Fusiliers, 25, 45, 46–47

Overton, Lawrence Lancelot, 38

Pallister, Walter, 38
Passchendaele, Battle of (1917), 26, 37
Pfluger, Frank (Hill), 23
poison gas, 27, 28
Pollard, George Edwin, 39, 48n
Pollard, Walter, 39, 48n
Pozières Ridge, Battle of (1916), 18–19

'Race to the Sea' (1914), 41–42
Railway Operating Division (Royal Engineers), 8
Richardson, Fred, 40–41
Rigney, James Alfred, 41–42, 48n
Ringrose, Alfred, 42
Ross, Angus, 43
Royal Air Force (RAF), 8
Royal Army Medical Corps, 8, 10
Royal Berkshire Regiment, 38
Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 28
Royal Engineers, 8, 16, 37
Royal Field Artillery, 9, 20, 37, 43
Royal Fusiliers, 34, 47
Royal Garrison Artillery, 14, 33
Royal Irish Fusiliers, 4å2
Royal Irish Regiment, 11
Royal Marine Light Infantry, 21, 31
Royal Naval Reserve, 40–41
Royal Scots, 14, 45
Ruffer, Sir Marc Almond, 23

Savage, Duncan, 43
Sawdon, George, 44
Scarpe, Third Battle of (1917), 33
Seaforth Highlanders, 24
Shafto, Arthur Duncombe, 45
Sheen, John, 25
Siege Battalion (Royal Garrison Artillery), 14
Signal Service (Royal Engineers), 37
Skelly, Tom, 46
Smith, John Clement, 46–47
Somme, First Battle of (1916), 12–13, 17, 18–19, 21, 24, 25, 29, 34
Spring Offensive (Second Battle of the Somme, 1918), 11, 20, 30, 35, 38, 42
submarines, 23, 40–41

Taylor, Jubilee James, 47, 48n
Tyneside Scottish (Sheen), 25

Vimy Ridge, Battle of (1917), 19

West Riding Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), 26
West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), 9, 13, 15, 18–19, 20–21, 27, 32–33, 39, 47
Wiltshire Regiment, 21

York Asylum, 29
York Cemetery, 8, 30, 37, 42, 48n
Yorkshire Hussars, 16–17
Yorkshire Regiment, 39
Ypres, Fourth Battle of (1918), 38, 43
Ypres, Second Battle of (1915), 28
Ypres, Third Battle of (Passchendaele, 1917), 26, 37

Appendix

St Olave's WW1 Memorial: General Observations:

1. The 57 names on the memorial represent a wide variety of actions and Battles in WW1, spanning every year of the war.

2. The named men on the St Olave's WW1 memorial buried at York Cemetery are:

- William Air
- Stephen Carter Lane
- Norman Coutts
- George Nicholls
- James Alfred Rigney
- Jubilee James Taylor

3. The first and last men (William Air and Jubilee James Taylor) are buried at York Cemetery

4. In a few cases it has not been possible to ascertain the connection between the named men and York/St Olave's. However, it could be that a family member with connections to the Parish/City may have requested inclusion on the memorial.

5. Two of the men gave false ages at enlistment (Philip McCrae Duncan and James Lickley). They should not have been posted overseas. It was the job of the Army and the attesting officers to ascertain ages. However, giving a false age was not uncommon and attesting officers were paid bonuses for the numbers of men recruited.

6. Brothers – The following men are brothers on the War Memorial

   William Air and Walter Holman – included, as they were brothers-in-law
   Reginald Busby and Harold Busby
   Arthur Backhouse and John Backhouse (John Bockhouse on memorial – incorrect spelling)
   William Harrison and Arthur Harrison
   Edward Hick and Harold Hick
   William Nicholls and George Nicholls
   Walter Pollard and George Pollard

Note: James Lickley is quoted by CWGC as being one of six brothers who volunteered together in 1914. Although not certain, it seems that James Lickley's five brothers survived the war.

St Olave's Church, Marygate, York
Contact us:
ww1memorial@stolaveschurch.org.uk