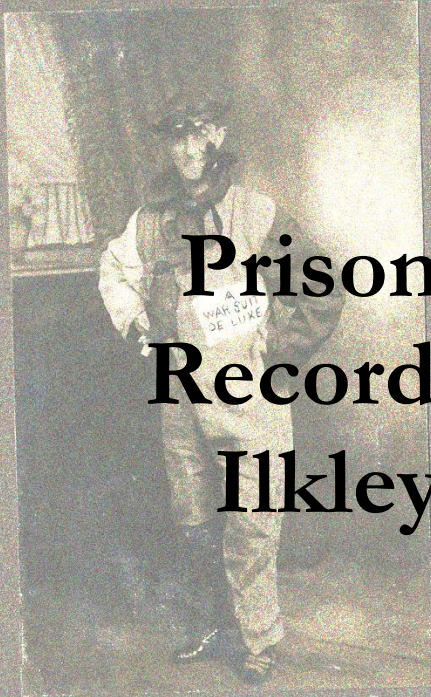
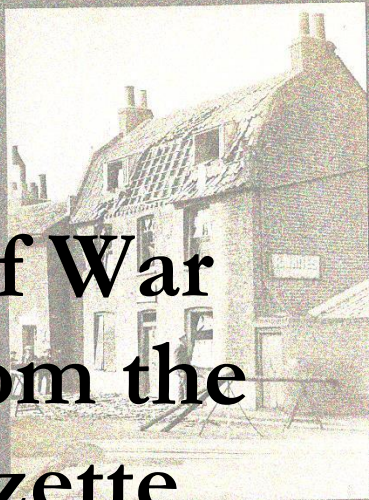


# Prisoner of War Records from the Ilkley Gazette

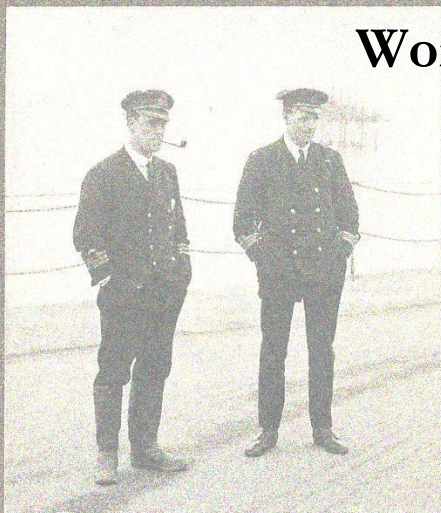


Chief Petty Officer Elite in Fancy Dress



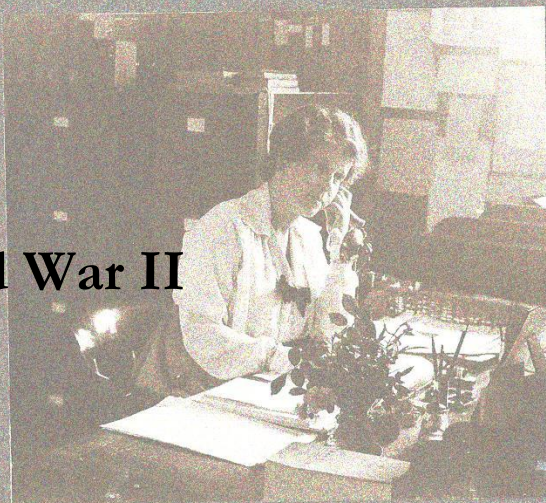
After The Explosion - Sep 20th 1917

## World War II

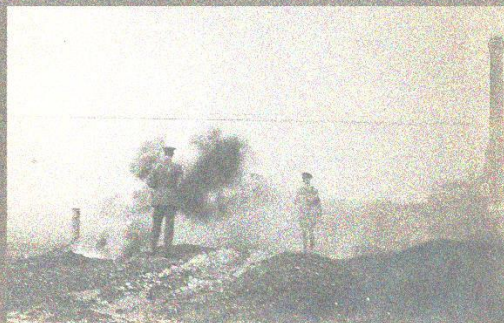


At Dover

Wing-Commander Brock RN    Eng<sup>r</sup> Lt-Commander Curre RN  
Killed at Zeebrugge 22/4/18



Miss Rowe - Secretary



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# FOREWORD

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By 1914 the Ilkley Gazette had been in print for over 60 years – commencing in May 1861, although archival records only date from January 1868. The paper in peacetime not only covered local news but aspects of national and international news.

During the First World War a few more photographs began to appear and there were accounts of the achievements of the living and dead on the battlefields of Europe, and the Middle East; at sea globally; and increasingly the activities of Ilkley personnel in the Royal Flying Corps (later the RAF).

Adverts were rather sparse, but there were regular messages from government sources. Sport and items of interest to women and children were included along with increasing acknowledgement of women's role in the War. The stories of refugees from war-torn Belgium in Ilkley were covered regularly.

Ilkley even in Wartime was seen as a place to holiday, convalesce, walk the Moors, to take the waters and breathe in unpolluted air. People in the pre-radio era relied on the local papers for a great deal of varied information; and the picture houses also played their part.

I wish to thank Newsquest (Yorkshire and North East) Ltd., various editors and all the staff at the offices of the Ilkley Gazette for their support over the three years of my archival research from the original papers. To Craven Stationery very many thanks for all their hard work on my behalf and Jonathan White, Addingham for proof reading the draft copies. I also wish to thank Tim Howson from Ben Rhydding who has in a very effective and painstaking way word processed all my work on this lengthy project about Ilkley in Wartime. Thanks are also

due to Ilkley and Skipton public libraries (for utilising past copies of the Craven Herald).

Richard Thackrah has been a resident of Ilkley for two spells over the last six decades. He gained his degrees in History, Geography and Education and has taught in primary, secondary and adult education. He has written textbooks reference books and general interest books, including a “Guide to Ilkley” and “Victorian Yorkshire” both published by the “Dalesman” and articles and short pieces for the “Ilkley Gazette”.

Tim Howson worked in the Information Technology sector for a prolonged spell after a Masters in Computing from Bradford University. Since then he has gained a Masters in Conservation and Land Management, from Bangor University, and works part-time in moorland restoration but still keeps up to date with technology and put together the database these booklets have been based on. He is currently a committee member and the webmaster for the Wharfedale Naturalists’ Society.

*Richard Thackrah ([www.ainola.co.uk](http://www.ainola.co.uk))*

## **Addy, Ernest**

***Age:***

34

***Rank:***

Pte

***Regiment:***

RAMC

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Baker with Fox's Pork butchers.

***Experience:***

IG 12/3/43; 21/9/45; 19/10/45.

Joined RAMC Oct 1940 and went overseas in Oct 1941 and reported missing January 1942 in Malaya.

Arrived in Singapore 05/02/1942 on Express Asia. Ship hit by 3 oil bombs and jumped overboard, picked up by small craft from Singapore harbour 5 miles away. 15 months at Changi hospital, met Pte Harper (malaria) and Pte Cunningham (med orderly).

With medical party, 230 including 200 other ranks to camps on Bangkok to Moulmein railway. 15 died and later at Kanchanabari joined by medical party. From August 1944 to March 1945 built camps and made tunnels in the hills for fuel and ammunition. Moved 1,500 miles and camp 18 miles North East of Bangkok, lost weight but fairly fit. He was in Bangkok at the time Japanese surrender. First Ilkley man back as a POW from Japan.

Died in Ilkley in 1984.



## **Armstrong, J.**

***Rank:***

Pte

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Apprentice, Joiner

***War Regions:***

France

***Experience:***

IG 18/5/45.

POW in France May 1940. Taken to West Prussia and liberated near Schwerin on Elbe by Americans.

## **Barker, W.H.M**

***Age:***

34

***Rank:***

Signalman

***Regiment:***

Royal Corps Signals

***War Regions:***

Italy, Czechoslovakia

***Experience:***

IG 25/5/45.

Captured at Tobruk in prison camps in Italy and Sudetenland (Czechoslovakia) in June 1942 until the end of the War.

## **Bates, G.T.**

***Age:***

54

***Rank:***

2nd Lt.

***Regiment:***

Ilkley Home Guard

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Borneo Co Ltd of London and to Sarawak in 1912.

***Experience:***

IG 30/7/43.

Went to Sarawak in 1912 and back to the UK 1939 just before the war. Was in Ilkley Home Guard. Returned to Sarawak in March 1941 on temporary government appointment in Local Defence Volunteers. Fled to Batavia in March 1942.

His brother Dr. H.T. Bates, Medical Officer of Health in Ilkley, stated that he was in Fukuoka Camp in Japan.

## Bell, Joseph

***Age:***

35

***Rank:***

Pte

***Regiment:***

DLI, Northumberland Fusiliers

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Orderly - 1937-1939 Middleton Sanatorium

***War Regions:***

Somme

***Experience:***

IG 4/5/45.

Lived with his sister Mrs E. Spence 18 River View.

Recruited in 1939, in army from 1930 with a break between 1937 - 1939. Captured on Somme in May 1940. In six camps in Germany including two and a half years in Weimar. He was sent to work down a salt mine a mile in depth and then in a salt factory. Escaped twice, but failed. Held in 2 punishment camps and refused to wear clogs. He was held in Stalag IX C 435 Mulhausen when liberated by U.S. army. He had sent a photo of himself at Mulhausen to his sister Mrs. E.M. Spence, Dean Street, Ilkley.

## **Carr, Geoffery**

***Rank:***

Driver

***Regiment:***

East Yorkshire

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Unknown - Messrs Brown and Clarkson, Ilkley.

***War Regions:***

Egypt

***Experience:***

25/9/42.

Joined army Jan 1940. POW Italian hands in Egypt.

## **Castelli, G.D.**

### ***Rank:***

Lt Col

### ***Pre-war Occupations:***

Director - On board of directors at John Foster & Co Ltd, Queensbury.

### ***War Regions:***

Germany

### ***Experience:***

IG 27/4/45.

Eldest son F/O (Flying Officer) J Castelli (20) and was in US and Canada from 1943, son Michael (19) officer cadet in RN.

Fought in FWW and SWW. FWW Woolwich 1916, commissioned in 1917 in R.H.A. March 1918 wounded and captured on Reserve of Officers. When war came 1939 to France and Lt in command of regiment in 1943.

Captured in Eindhoven 21/09/1944 where in company of AA regt while driving jeep to one of his batteries. Jeep ambushed and fired on - luckily he and his driver OK.

60 mile march to Amersfoort then to Limburg transit camp near Frankfurt, walked 200 miles in 7 days and in cattle truck with 42 officers, tried to escape, but discovered and nearly shot.

At Limburg with 12,000 other ranks. There were 350 officers in 1 hut. Then to Hadamar camp and met General Forture 51st Highland Division. Captured at Saint-Valery-en-Caux in June 1940 and finally Oflag 79 Brunswick.

Cigarettes £35 for 100. No heating - no washing as no hot water. His weight dropped from 12st 7lbs to 9st 12lbs. Germans stopped Red Cross parcels Xmas 1944. After liberation sacks of undelivered letters found plus nearly 1 million Red Cross Parcels.

## **Cawood, A.**

***Rank:***

Driver

***Regiment:***

ASC

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Crompton Parkinson, Guiseley

***War Regions:***

Singapore

***Experience:***

IG 31/5/40 & 26/10/45

In a letter home:

"Wounded in leg - when enemy managed to get behind his party, which was engaged in hand to hand fighting in a successful attempt to break through to Dunkirk. Cawood says 37 German prisoners were taken."

Later captured at Singapore - engaged by Japanese in break up of motor cars - then on railway construction laying sleepers & building embankments. Quite well treated. Had met Ilkley men Douthwaite and West in prison who both subsequently died, the former in Singapore and the latter in Thailand. Cawood in French Indo China when the Japanese surrendered but not surprised as he received the news by listening to a secret wireless set!



## Cunningham, Clifford

***Age:***

25

***Rank:***

Pte

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Farmer - Employed by Mr. Arthur King Wharfedale Grange Farm BR, before then by Mr. Reg Rhodes Wheatley Grange Farm in BR.

***Experience:***

24/4/42.

Missing Malaya from Singapore. His 20 year old brother Dennis was serving Sherwood Forresters in South Asia.

## Cunningham, Dennis

***Age:***

21

***Rank:***

Pte

***Regiment:***

Sherwood Foresters

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Butchering department, Ilkley branch, Leeds Coop stores.

***War Regions:***

North Africa

***Experience:***

IG 26/3/43; 25/5/45.

His elder brother was reported missing in Malaya in March 1942.

POW following operations in North Africa (Tunisia).

Worked in a Sudetenland petrol factory 12 hours a day 7 days a week - been bombed 18 times by the RAF in the last 12 months. Raids allowed POWs to get food while guards took over. Red Cross parcels stopped post Xmas 1944. He escaped in March 1945 with a friend - donned civilian outfit and left factory with rest of workers. Marched 100 km to outskirts of Prague where they met with Czech patriots and were given food, clothes and a bath. They visited Rostock Village Hospital where there were 49 English speaking Frenchmen from Buchenwald Concentration Camp. They decided against staying in hospital and moved on

to the next village. This was just as well as the next day the SS shot up Rostock in a raid including the hospital where they cut off the noses and ears of the French people there. They reached Prague before the Russians and picked up by Czech Partisans of whom the women members believed they were SS but luckily they were in touch with an English speaking man who was convinced of their identity.

They were in Prague on VE day and the Russians arrived 3 days later. The Czechs took revenge on the Germans, hanging and shooting many of them. They were given transport by the Czechs and passed through Russian lines to reach the Americans.

## **Dibb, James William**

***Age:***

23

***Rank:***

Driver

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Butcher - for M.F. Midgley, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

***War Regions:***

Middle East, France (Dunkirk), France

***Experience:***

IG 25/5/45; 24/7/42.

A native of Bramhope and then moved to Skipton.

Called up Oct 39 to France RASC and back to the UK from Dunkirk. Overseas again May 1941.

POW Middle East from 27/05/1942 and in Italy and Germany. Excellent health and spirits. Well equipped with boots and clothes from Red Cross Parcels.

## **Dobson, W.**

***Rank:***

Cpl

***Regiment:***

British Land Army

***Experience:***

IG 29/6/45.

Mr and Mrs Roman Gentbrugge, Belgian family, wrote to Mrs Dobson of 28 Wellington Road whose husband has been staying - saying how nice the Englishman is and has given inspiration to family to visit the UK. Dobson left for other military duty.

## **Dowthwaite, Lister**

***Age:***

24

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Gardener

***War Regions:***

France (Dunkirk), France

***Experience:***

IG 16/7/42.

Eldest brother Billy (32) serving in the 8th army and another brother Sydney (30) also in army. Mrs Dowthwaite received a postcard on 20/6/1942 to say he was a POW of the Japanese. Caught in Malaya February 1942 (Singapore). Called up in 1939 - before Middle East.

## Flower, Wilfred

***Age:***

26

***Rank:***

Trooper

***Regiment:***

Royal Tank Corps

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Gentleman's Outfitters - Mr. R. Easby, gentleman's outfitters,  
Leeds Road, Ilkley.

***War Regions:***

Libya

***Experience:***

IG 28/2/41; 20/6/41; 2/2/45; 1/6/45.

Captured at Fort El Mechile, Libya and taken to Italy in April 1941. He tried to escape when in Italy and surrendered in September 1943. However, he was captured by German paratroopers and sent to Austria where in Graz he built air raid shelters which had been flattened by Allied bombing. Prisoners took cover in the hills each morning to avoid Allied air raids.

In Germany in Stalag XVIII A. Acknowledged receipt of parcels and was most grateful in particular for the cigarettes.

## Ford, John

***Age:***

24

***Rank:***

Lt

***Regiment:***

Royal Tank Regiment

***War Regions:***

Middle East, India

***Experience:***

IG 9/1/42; 9/4/43; 18/5/45.

Joined Royal Tank Regiment Jan 39; commissioned Aug 39; to Middle East June 41.

Missing, now safe but in hospital. Good progress. Wounded in thigh and one of his ears damaged in North Africa fighting. His father was with Maufe and Galloway 28/03/1942 when they were blown up by a trench mortar at Blubberhouses. John Ford (senior) was injured about the head and face in the same accident.

Lt. Ford then prisoner again. He took part in fighting at Bir Bulafar where he was wounded and taken as a POW to a Greek Hospital. Then by train as a POW to Germany where he was in two camps, Stalag 8B and Oflag 7B. In one of these camps was another Ilkley man Lt Philip K Wicksteed who was taken as a prisoner in Greece.



## **Forrest, R.H.**

***Age:***

30

***Rank:***

L/Cpl

***Regiment:***

KOSB - Airbourne D division

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Cabinet maker

***War Regions:***

Arnhem

***Experience:***

IG 17/11/44; 9/2/45.

With glider troops who landed at Arnhem - wounded in left shoulder on second day 20/09/1944 by aerial shell and picked up by the Germans 30 hours later. Treated in hospital in Nuremburg. He was told he would be repatriated in October 1944, but since then was in 7 different camps.

## Gelder, John

***Age:***

21

***Rank:***

Flying Officer

***Experience:***

IG 19/1/45.

Been in ops 9 months. Trained in Canada and Bahamas. Missing on air ops on night 13/01/1945. He was safe and interned in neutral territory. This turned out to be Sweden where he met and married a local girl. After the war they both lived in Ilkley and he worked for Spooners.

## **Graham, Peter**

***Rank:***

Gunner

***Regiment:***

Royal Artillery

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Library Assistant at Purley library near Croydon, but resigned in 1939.

***War Regions:***

Middle East, Greece

***Experience:***

IG 25/7/41;

18/5/45

Joined army in mid 1939, to Middle East Sept 1940. POW in Greece.

Home from prison camp in Germany - only son of late Mr. William Graham (Ilkley librarian who died when his son a POW). At Stalag VII B in Silesia, Salonika. Captured near Salonika and conditions very bad in Greece. In Germany there were Red Cross parcels and he worked on the railway.

## **Green, Jack**

***Rank:***

Capt

***War Regions:***

Middle East, France, Malta

***Experience:***

IG 27/4/45.

Captured at Leros in Dodecanese in Aegean in November 1943. In France 1940; and then Malta for 3 years; and Middle East for 6 weeks when captured. Spent 4 months in Oflag 79 near Munich.

## Green, Jerry

***Age:***

25

***Rank:***

Capt

***Regiment:***

Royal Artillery

***Pre-war Occupations:***

2 Lt - Ilkley Band Territorials in 1939.

***Experience:***

IG 26/3/43; 31/12/43.

Missing in North Africa and POW, now safe and in Switzerland.  
After the war worked in family timber trade business in Silsden.

## Haley, Michael

***Age:***

20

***Rank:***

Paratrooper

***Regiment:***

1st Airborne

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Banker - National Provincial Bank, Leeds

***War Regions:***

Arnhem

***Experience:***

IG 24/11/44.

His father J.A. Haley currently in India and a FWW veteran and in the woollen trade in Bradford and London.

## Harling, Laurence

***Age:***

27

***Rank:***

L/Cpl

***Regiment:***

Royal Tank Regiment

***Cemetery:***

Bari War Cemetery

***War Regions:***

Middle East, India

***Experience:***

IG 17/7/42. IG 9/10/42.

Joined Kings Own Royal Regiment in 1933 and spent 4 years in India and then transferred to Royal Tank Regiment 1938. In Middle East from 1941. Was an Italian POW and had been missing since 20/06/1942. Died as a POW in Italian hospital 07/08/1942.

## Harper, John William

***Age:***

28

***Rank:***

Pte

***Regiment:***

Cambridgeshire Regiment - 1

***Experience:***

IG 10/4/42; 26/10/45.

Japanese POW. Captured at Singapore. His unit moved from India to Singapore in January 1942 and in action Thursday - Sunday when completely surrounded and captured. Then every man robbed of their possessions. By July 1945 6000 in Changi which had accommodation for only 700 and further 6000 were put in jail if Mountbatten attacked through Malaya.

Machine guns installed all round the prison walls for this possible action. Large stocks medicine from Red X found after surrender but withheld from POWs. Used by Japanese - led to many POW deaths. When 2nd near Japanese let the Red X parcels through, but food parcels opened by the Japanese and eaten by them.

In hospital on VJ Day and taken aboard a hospital ship on a stretcher. Weighed only 7 stone - down from 12 stones 7 lbs. In last weeks said Harper most of the hospital cases were losing weight and if war had lasted would have died. In Singapore all the time he was a prisoner. When not in hospital engaged in cultivating gardens in which prisoners grew food but they still



suffered from lack of food. Means of secreting wireless sets and kept in touch with the news. Good Allied news rationed as it was feared jubilant faces would give them away and lead to injuries and searches. Japanese told them news if good for Japan such as the death of President Roosevelt in USA.

## Harwood, Lascelles (Lord)

***Rank:***

Lt

***War Regions:***

Italy

***Experience:***

IG 13/10/44.

Bullet fired from British Bren gun wounded Lascelles south of Perugia in June 1944. German radio made much of British bullet in Harwood's body after they captured him.

## **Holmes, Ernest, Richard**

***Age:***

18

***Rank:***

Sgt / Wireless Operator / Air Gunner

***Regiment:***

RAF - 10

***Experience:***

IG 27/4/45.

POW shot down over enemy territory August 1940. He was in ten POW camps and eventually liberated by U.S. troops (along with many Desert Rats) from Stalag 17, North of Hanover. Spent some time at Stalag Luft 3 at Sagan. Survived on Red X parcels.

Whitley: P4955

Op: Jena

Camps:

L1 (Barth)

L6 (Heydekrug)

357 (Thorn + Oerlske)

## Howitt, Edward

***Age:***

25

***Rank:***

L/Cpl

***Regiment:***

RASC

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Arthur Newsome Ltd, Burley-in-Wharfedale.

***War Regions:***

France (Dunkirk)

***Experience:***

IG 20/03/42.

Arrived in Singapore Dec 1941. 1st telegram reported him missing, 2nd telegram said 'Escaped Singapore. Well. Love Eddie Howitt'.

His wife Sheila lives in Skipton Road, Ilkley.

## Innes, Stanley

***Age:***

30

***Rank:***

Sgt

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Member of Hong Kong Water Police since 1935; Returned to work as Electrician in Ilkley with his father during the shipping slump.

***Experience:***

IG 25/9/42; 30/11/45.

Hong Kong Water Police Force since 1935, but returned to Ilkley to work as electrician with father in the shipping slump.

Interned in Hong Kong by Japanese 25/12/1941. Although he lost 2 stones he stressed that the only food shortages were near the end of the war.

First interned - placed in 'Gloucester' and 'Hong Kong' hotels. Food through Red X parcels. Letters took a year to arrive on occasion and some food parcels not distributed. Held for 400 days but then return to Hong Kong eventually. He was a Chinese speaker and had been due to leave HK when Pearl Harbour intervened 7 December 1941.

## Jackson, Edgar

***Age:***

28

***Rank:***

Flying Officer

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Police - Bradford

***War Regions:***

France, France (Paris)

***Experience:***

IG 9/2/45; 18/5/45.

Trained for RAF in Canada and air bomber in 1943.

Bailed out of the shot down Lancaster 30/06/1944 over Orleans. After a spell with the Resistance betrayed near Chartres and taken to Paris Gestapo HQ and Fresnes prison only one month before Paris was liberated. SS deported 1700 prisoners by train to Germany including 160 GB/US airmen. 75 in a truck in a 4 day journey to Buchenwald. Eventually in Oct 44 to Stalagluft 3A near Berlin (30 miles). Russians broke through and then to US lines and up to Brunswick, from there to Rheims and UK.

On 09/02/1945 Secretary Menston POW Club Mrs L. Booth read letter from relative in Luft 3 POW camp dated 18/11/44. "Just received in camp a new prisoner by the name of Jackson from Ilkley. Everything strange to newcomer but took him in hand and showed him ropes. He is quite well".

## **Kerr, Alastair McDougal (Jasper)**

***Age:***

26

***Rank:***

Lt

***Regiment:***

Royal Artillery

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Judge

***War Regions:***

Italy, France (Dunkirk)

***Experience:***

IG 17/7/42.

Volunteered January 1942 in response to request. POW in Northern Italy.

Called to Bar of Middle Temple. One of the later evacuees from Dunkirk.

## Lambert, Jack

***Rank:***

Rifleman

***Regiment:***

Cameronians

***Experience:***

IG 21/6/40; 27/4/45.

Joined regular army and to France in 1938. Been through Maginot line in France and "believed it to be impregnable". Missing believed POW 31/05/1940. Later as POW and on so called 'death march' to Hanover in 1945. Brutal guards herded POW's into barns, with little to eat apart from a few Red X parcels.



## Lawrence, William

***Age:***

24

***Rank:***

Sgt

***Regiment:***

RAF

***Awards:***

Promotion - Promoted to Flight Sgt immediately after reported gone missing.

***War Regions:***

Denmark

***Experience:***

IG 10/7/42; 25/5/45.

Reported missing after raid on battleship 'Prince Eugen' in May 1942 and then wrongly stated by Swedish Red X to be safe in hospital there.

Shot down 17/05/1942 over Denmark and wounded in right foot and broke leg landing into cornfield. In Danish and German hospitals and then to Schleswig where kept in a small room 18ft x 10ft with two Canadians, 1NZ and 3 Russians.

Moved to Stalag 8B and shackled at the ankles after Dieppe raid. Wrists fastened with string for 6 weeks and then for 14 months shackled. Stayed behind when Russians near, but Germans found them and put them on train South. Escaped and picked

up in Czechoslovakia and handed to Gestapo. 2 weeks in prison and then on another train and escaped again. Found by Russians near Elbe. 3 weeks with the Russians and then to US lines by River Elbe.

## **Lawrence, William A.**

***Rank:***

Sgt

***War Regions:***

Middle East

***Experience:***

IG 14/4/44.

Shot down over Germany after many ops over Italy, France and the Middle East. Met up with Sgt William Pegg in German prison camp. Both became POWs in 1942 in different theatres of war.

## Leather, David Hinscliff

***Age:***

20

***Rank:***

Sgt Observer

***Regiment:***

RAF

***War Regions:***

Italy

***Experience:***

IG 1/6/45; 2/10/42.

Volunteered RAF 1940 when 18 and some training done in the USA. Missing from 21/06/42 following forced landing in Middle East - now in Italy as POW. Spent time in Italian hospital recovering from injuries. Then in 1945 in hospital in the UK. He was a POW for 3 years.

## Mammatt, John E.

***Rank:***

Lt

***Regiment:***

RN

***Awards:***

DSO

***War Regions:***

Mediterranean

***Experience:***

IG 28/11/41. IG 14/12/45.

Ilkley native then N. Wales Prep school and RN College Dartmouth. All service in the Mediterranean and the two destroyers both sunk while serving in them. POW as a result Crete operation May 1941 to May 1945. DSC awarded while a POW during Crete ops. Distinguished service in Greek waters. Now in Italy. DSO in 1945.

## Muncaster, William

***Age:***

22

***Rank:***

Sgt

***Regiment:***

RAF

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Nursery Worker - Mr. J. Slater, nurseryman.

***Experience:***

IG 23/4/43.

Joined RAF Dec 41 as airgunner. Interned in neutral country following air ops on 10/04/43. His brother 19 yr old George in RN and was grocer with Walmsley's in Cowpasture Road.

**Naylor, J.C.**

***Age:***

21

***Rank:***

Sgt Navigator

***Regiment:***

RAF

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Accountant - Accountancy department of Bradford Dyers Assoc.  
in Bradford before joining RAF in 1941.

***War Regions:***

Germany

***Experience:***

IG 7/1/44.

POW in Germany from Nov 1943.

## Owen, Robert

***Age:***

26

***Rank:***

L/Cpl

***Regiment:***

Royal Scots

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Bus Conductor - With West Yorks Road Car Company.

***Experience:***

IG 31/7/42.

POW in hands of Japanese.



## **Pegg, William**

***Rank:***

Sgt

***War Regions:***

Middle East

***Experience:***

IG 14/4/44.

Green Howards & captured in the Middle East. Met up with Sgt William Lawrence in German prison camp. Both POWs in 1942 in different theatres of war.

IG 27/4/45.

Death march 500 miles to Hanover. Small loaf and soup every 24 hours. Liberated by U.S. forces near Hanover when Germans allowed them to have 2 day's rest.

## **Perry, G.H.**

***Age:***

30

***Rank:***

Cpl

***Regiment:***

Air Army Corps (Paras), Duke of Wellington West Riding Regiment

***War Regions:***

Arnhem

***Experience:***

IG 26/10/44; 10/11/44; 25/5/45.

Captured at Arnhem and in Stalag IV B at Mulberg. Did not discover until later that John Naylor of Little Lane was in the same camp. Yet both were members of White Rose Club for Yorkshiremen in Stalag IV B. Post Xmas 1944 food deteriorated - Red X parcels not arrive due to RAF bombing. "The RAF did a good job in Germany from what I saw".

## **Rathmell, J.W.B**

***Age:***

28

***Rank:***

Driver

***Regiment:***

RASC

***Pre-war Occupations:***

County Council - WRCC in Ilkley

***War Regions:***

Middle East, Greece, France

***Experience:***

IG 11/7/41; 1/6/45.

Missing in ME from April 1941 when captured in Greece.  
Liberated by the U.S. troops from Stalag XVIII Wolfsburg  
Austria to which camp transferred from Stalag XIV.

## Schofield, George Henry

***Age:***

23

***Rank:***

Signalman

***Regiment:***

Royal Corps Signals

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Painter and Decorator - Apprenticed Mr W.B. Dale painter and decorator.

***War Regions:***

Crete

***Experience:***

IG 12/9/41; 2/2/45.

First military man to be called up in Ilkley. Writes to Otley and Wharfedale POW Club - 'Welcomes cigarette parcels. Limited number of cards per month. Future success to POW Friendship committee in Ilkley. One gets used to life out here and how it is spent. Cigarettes, letters and parcels from home and British Red Cross parcels are greatest comfort to any POW'.

## Shackleton, Ernest

### ***Rank:***

Capt

### ***Experience:***

IG 19/9/41; 27/4/45; 12/10/45.

In Royal Signals captured St Valery with Sgt Dubison. As he was slightly wounded he spent 3 months in hospital in Rowen. Initially in good camp at Tittmonning (Oflag 70) - received American parcels and access to a prison library with 3,000 books.

Instrumental as four and a half years as POW in Germany in constructing a wireless receiver out of cocoa tins and other materials. Pre-war was an expert in wireless research and had a transmitting licence. 1939 won Wortley-Talbot cup for most meritorious contribution to T & R Bulletin magazine of Radio Society of GB. Call sign G6SN. At Leeds Uni 1921 - 1925 to study engineering.

At camp at Rotenburg-am-Fulda (Oflag 9 A/Z) near Kassel made a wireless set. Bought cinema gear from Germans but our intention to use talkie gear for radio receiver for BBC News. Officers left and took cinema gear, but left some gear in camp (Germans not interested).

Took valve and a few condensers to build up a receiver to take BBC news. Spindles from thermometer cases, plates from cocoa tins and celluloid tooth brush handles formed insulation for

condensers. Valve holders - Bakelite ash tray - coil formers as cardboard tubes and toilet roll and impregnated candle wax.

Plug in coils used, so various frequencies operated by two knitting needles - main leads and aerials between cracks in boards. Apparatus closed down and made unseen should any German appear. Building was clear of Germans but if enemy did appear the look out would merely saunter away - knock on effect as back look out did the same, all in 10 to 12 seconds.

After intensive search set removed to dining room. Set into wall at false side of cupboard. Germans did find 1/2 a set and warnings issued, but 10 days nightly service improved. Swedish YMCA (on German transmission) was loaned to us installed in the guard room, but they turned it on when we asked (as it was their news). It came through 3 or 4 times a day. So to avoid detection only 1 GB transmission used 6pm or 9pm - continued right up to March, out from camp in late March 1945. Set left in camp. Later the War Office allowed Shackleton to fly out to Germany to remove the set and anything else left there. Rothenburg in U.S. zone and they were happy to help.

Early 1945 Gestapo visited the camp in force and spent a day thoroughly searching. Gestapo agents tried to open 'hide' with crowbars and spent 5 minutes trying and then gave up. Had plans for transmission 1944 to do 2 way transmission between Allies and POWs - hard to do as Germans in the building. A transmitter could have been ready 40 hours, but due to Arnhem failure British officers marched East, picked up 150 miles away before Allies could reach us. The USAF bombed the area and electricity regularly out. POWs stole a German ventilating fan and work commenced on alternate supply in Jan 1945 and practically complete by the time camp was abandoned.

At Fulda, Germans less inclined to impose and implement orders as it neared the end. Marched West 16 kilometers a day

in 15 days. Bread 4lbs; meat 7oz; potatoes 5 1/2 lbs; coffee 1/2 oz; cereals 3 1/2 oz; peas 5 1/2 oz; vegetables 4 1/2 lbs; margarine 6oz; sugar 5 oz; jam 5oz; cheese 2 1/2 oz.

At the time POWs moved out, a transformer under construction, but officers ordered to leave the camp before completion. German cables under the camp and if fuse failed in box fibres made a false key, to replace a blown fuse was under a German sentry. If found by German's apparatus confiscated and operators probably shot. Apparatus at home in the UK and hopefully in the Imperial War Museum in London.

## Stevens, Kenneth B. Havelock

***Rank:***

Mr

***Regiment:***

SSF (Singapore Vol Corps) Bn

***Cemetery:***

Thanbyuzayat

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Administrator - In Singapore, General Admin, Dunlop Rubber Company; Quartermaster Sgt - Pre Feb 1942 Company Quartermaster Sgt. Singapore Volunteers Unit.

***Experience:***

IG 16/7/43.

Died in Thailand camp as Jap POW on 07/08/1943. Buried in Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery Burma.



## Stringer, Herbert

***Age:***

41

***Rank:***

Major

***Regiment:***

RAOC

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Assistant Suveyor - To County Council at Skipton & lived in Embsay.

***War Regions:***

Middle East, Crete

***Experience:***

IG 11/7/41; 11/5/45.

He had links with Ilkley.

Took part in one week forced march between camps Eichstatt and Moosburg. They were put in huts in 3 tiered bunks with 2 water taps per hut. Received hospital treatment. Red X parcels included bread, potatoes, soup and sugar. At Eichstatt were also able to have a hot shower. On liberation was flown back to the UK and flying over Metz heard about George VI VE day speech.

## Sutcliffe, Robert

***Rank:***

2nd Lt.

***Regiment:***

Royal Artillery

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Forath Engineering Co, West Bromwich.

***Experience:***

IG 7/1/44.

Japanese POW. Captured with RA at Singapore.

## Thorpe, Jack

***Age:***

23

***Rank:***

Sgt / Wireless Operator

***Regiment:***

RAF

***Pre-war Occupations:***

Ilkley branch - Leeds Cooperative Society.

***Experience:***

IG 6/4/44; 25/5/45.

Joined RAF in October 1941 as airgunner / wireless operator.  
Taken as a POW in bombing raid over Germany in March 1944.

**West, J.E.**

*Age:*  
25

*Pre-war Occupations:*  
Reading Room Staff - Yorkshire Observer

*Experience:*  
IG 20/3/42.

Brother of Miss J.E. West 45 Wyvil Crescent, Ben Rhydding.

Japanese POW - Singapore.

## **Wicksteed, Philip K.**

***Rank:***

Lt

***Regiment:***

TA, Yorkshire Hussars

***War Regions:***

Palestine, Greece

***Experience:***

IG 11/5/45.

Evacuated from Greece 29/04/1941 and liberated 29/04/1945 on march Eichstatt POW camp to Moosburg POW camp. One week march.