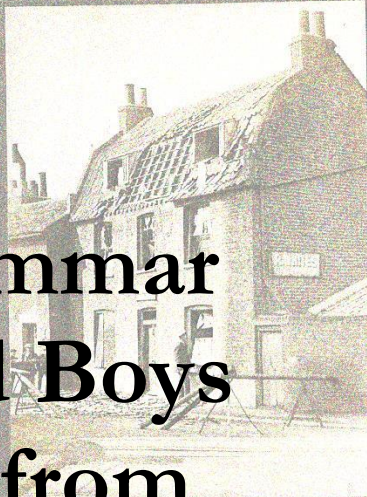
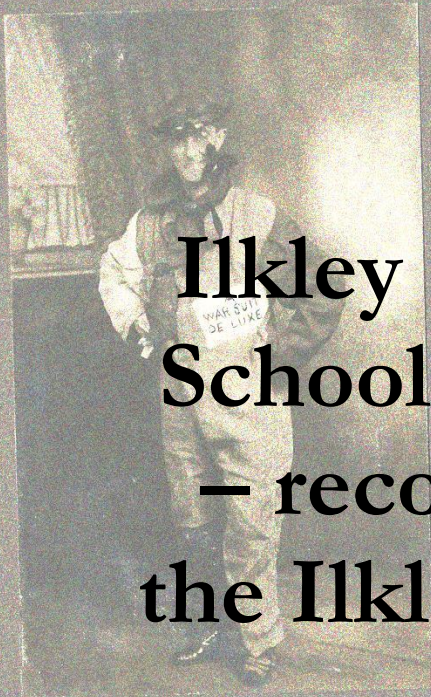


Ilkley Grammar School Old Boys — records from the Ilkley Gazette

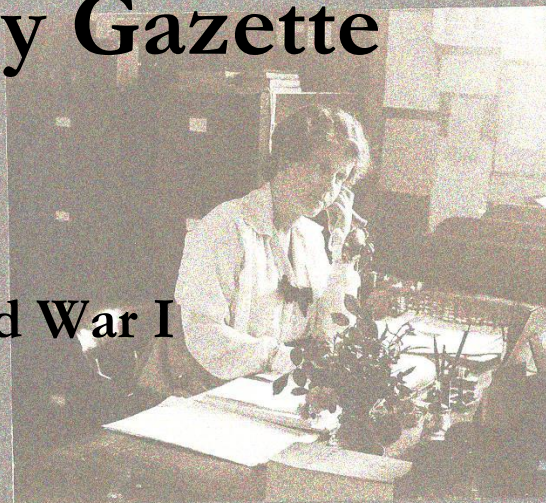


After the Explosion - Sep 20th 1917

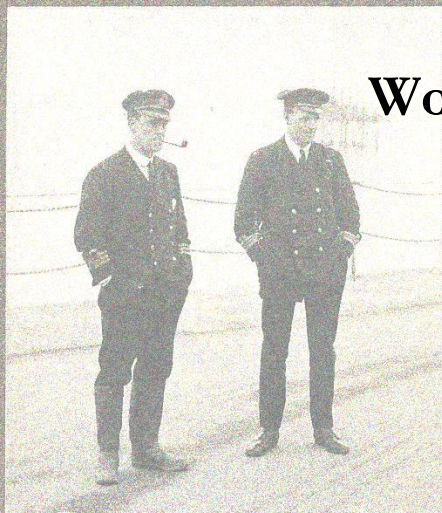


Chief Petty Officer Eite in Fancy Dress

World War I

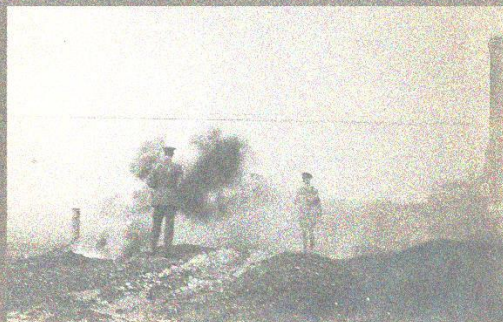


Miss Rowe - Secretary



At Dover

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



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FOREWORD

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.

Richard Thackerab (www.ainola.co.uk)

ILKLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN WARTIME

Ilkley Grammar School was no different to any other grammar school in the country regarding wartime losses among old boys and staff members. School are proud to have a roll of honour to commemorate former students who paid the ultimate sacrifice. There was a pride among the boys at what they had achieved fuelled by the honourable life of patriotism. The loss of youth in the whole country emphasised a sense of the need to remember. Clear lines of communication are essential in war between generals and the ordinary troops and former pupils and members of staff from all schools that went off to fight in both wars.

Both wars in their own different ways heightened education issues and problems that already existed in the country but at the same time it created conditions for far reaching reforms intended to improve reforms intended to improve society.

Old boys returned from overseas to fight; and by the end of the 1914 over 100 Old Boys were on the roll-of-honour. In mid-1915, Empire Day coincided with the Whitsun holidays and patriotic hymns and songs were sung with gusto. Over 156 names were on the roll-of-honour, of whom eighty were serving at the Front. In August 1915 news arrived that Lieut. E.F. Wilkinson a master had been awarded the Military Cross for carrying a wounded soldier into cover near St Julien. In February 1916 Norman Frazer was appointed the new Head of Ilkley Grammar School following the death of Mr Atkinson. Pupils were informed on Empire Day in 1916 that the responsibility of Empire was enormous and there was a need for mental and moral discipline. In April 1919 a meeting was held to resuscitate the Old Boys Association and to consider raising a

war memorial to the many Old Boys who had been killed. In August 1919 it was announced that there would be extra holiday to commemorate peace: which amounted to six extra days. On 5 December it was stated that a scheme was to be established by the Board of Education to run Ilkley GS and other similar schools from February 1920.

In September 1939 girls were admitted for the first time. Over 300 evacuee pupils from Leeds Modern School soon arrived as there was genuine fear of bombing; they had lessons in the morning and the grammar school pupils had theirs in the afternoon. The Modern School pupils returned to Leeds by Christmas 1939. On Empire Day in 1940 Mr Hillis the Headmaster spoke about the Empire being based on the traits of the English character: daring combined with honesty and reliability. The Hitler Empire in contrast “was of short lived mushroom growth”, Hillis died in 1942 a year which saw Ilkley raise large amounts of money for wartime appeals, e.g. for warships, planes and submarines. Many people at, or associated with, the school contributed in a very creditable way. The new headmaster, Mr Newby, was faced with preparing the pupils for peace. Under the 1944 Education Act he hoped that all schools” would be generously treated”. Debates took place with one or two schools about life in a post War Britain: for Youth Movements, Education, Industry and health. At the first Speech Day after the war ended in 1945, the local MP spoke about the need for young people to have a spirit of adventure for “on moral and spiritual qualities depend the destinies of Great Britain”.

Barr, N.R.

Rank:

Trooper (Pte)

Regiment:

Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry

Experience:

IG 6/8/15.

"Curious thing about travelling shells on leaving the gun there is a loud report and bright flash of yellow light. You can't see the shell, but you can hear it. The smaller ones whistle. When big howitzers are fired, the noise of the shell travelling can be heard for miles - a curious rumbling sound comes in gusts and sounds for all the world like a great runaway train careering down a steep bank."

Bellhouse, S.

Age:
21

Rank:
Lt.

Regiment:
W. Yorks Regiment - 8th

Experience:
IG 27/8/15.

In OTC at Cambridge. Slightly wounded in head and back by bursting shell.

Broadhead, Roy

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - Leeds Pals

Pre-war Occupations:

Assistant Librarian - Ilkley public library

War Regions:

Egypt, France

Experience:

IG 25/5/17.

Joined Leeds Pals battalion West Yorks Sept 1914 and served in Egypt and France. In hospital in Thorpe, Norfolk, wounded by shrapnel in right thigh.

Clarkson, Amos

Age:

23

Rank:

Captain

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 8th, WR Regiment

Cemetery:

Delsaux Farm Cemetery

Awards:

Awarded MC while attached to trench mortar battery also mentioned in dispatches (MiD) for meritorious service., MiD

Experience:

IG 8/11/18.

Died at Beugny 24/10/18. Death notification from keeper Privy Seal on 5/11/18.

Cobby, R.

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

Royal Garrison Artillery

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 16/4/15.

Invalided home from front - torn muscles through nasty fall from horse on very urgent dispatch near La Bassée. Also 'fierce time with my leg and hip'.

Cowling, Roy

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Experience:

IG 20/8/15.

Youngest son of Mr J. S. Cowling, Heath Cottage, Crossbeck Road, Ilkley. Joined Pals company of West Ridings in Sept 1914. Killed at Flanders 13/8/15. Just before his death his papers signed and sent to W.O. (War Office) for promotion to commissioned rank.

Dacre, Brian

Age:

28

Rank:

Capt & Acting Adjutant

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 8th

Pre-war Occupations:

Auctioneers / Valuers - Dacre & Son auctioneers and valuers
Ilkley & Otley.

War Regions:

France

Cause of Death:

Active Service

Experience:

IG 25/10/18.

Ilkley Pals W.R. Regiment late 1914 as a private and then to France July 1915. Commissioned after service in the field and then wounded. Fine soldier, cool & fearless and of Christian character.

Dean, Arthur Reginald

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

East Yorkshire Regiment - 4th Batt, W. Yorks Regiment - 5, WR
Regiment - 9th

Cemetery:

Croiselles British Cemetery

Awards:

DCM

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 31/3/16.

Recently wounded.

IG 3/9/15.

Acting as Cpl 5th Battalion W. Yorks Regiment.

Dean had a spell in hospital with gas poisoning plus a bullet through the muscles of his right arm. At this time he wrote "Very anxious we should quickly learn to love our enemies - so

say the milk sops of the earth. Problem of peace at any price for some individuals."

At the front from April & then 6 weeks in an English hospital. He was acting Quarter Master Sgt. He was getting rations when "tapped" on arm. Took part in sniping duties in Belgium & in heavy fighting.

DCM. Conspicuous gallantry during operations. Worked machine gun over parapet under heavy shell fire & accurate sniper fire in order to repulse enemy counter attack.

Dean's own account in letter to Gazette 21/7/1916:

"As day broke on the second march we took enemies front line. It fell to the bombers of the Duke of Wellington's and Gordon's to clear the enemy out of his dug outs. With this completed the task of consolidating the position began. This was half done when the Huns opened heavy fire which lasted 30 minutes after which the enemy attempted to re-take the trenches. They only got past their wire when they fell back due to our shell fire.

Heavy guns opened on us and pounding away until noon. Enemy attacked again under cover of communication trench which supported artillery and machine guns. Shrapnel poured into the trenches and the men fell left and right. I lost four of my gun team, ordered to check enemy's advance and gun firmly and accurately responded. Enemy had enough and retired. Relieved after 11pm. Handed over gun position and made way to the rear for a well earned rest, but a shell dropped on the machine gun section and I was wounded."

IG 13/7/17 - 2nd Lt.

One of four soldier sons of Tom Dean. Killed in action 3/7/17 - i/c wiring party of 10 men, 50 yards in front trench, hit by a

bullet in the head on trying to enter trench & fell in shell hole.
Unconscious & survived 10 minutes (so doctor said). Died at
Croiselles.

Dixon, Philip Fletcher

Age:

25

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

Motor Machine gun corps W. Riding Regiment - 4th

Cemetery:

Bedford House Cemetery

Pre-war Occupations:

Architect and assistant in office J.C. Proctor Architect, Leeds.

Cause of Death:

Aeroplane Machine Gun

Experience:

IG 15/6/17.

Ardent Quaker. Ilkley District Motor Cycle Club. Born in Tasmania, moved to UK at the age of 5 - parents previously resided in Ilkley.

Joined WR Regt 1914 then transferred to motor machine gun corps. Killed in action 8/6/1917. Shot through the head by aeroplane machine gun during engagement. Died 1 hour later on way to dressing station in Ypres.

Eddison, J.H.

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 4 Howitzer Bgde

Awards:

MiD - MiD

Experience:

IG 7/1/16.

On furlough he gave an interview to Ilkley Gazette. No attack on British lines since 16/5 & that was at Richebourg. Occasional shelling 3 or 4 times a day. Trenches shelled periodically each day and lads from Ilkley District doing very well in every way. He spoke very highly of their work, although lately experienced anything but exciting times. If Ilkley is not proud of these lads its towns folk ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Gee, A.E.

Rank:

Sgt.

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 4 Howitzer Bgde (Territorials)

Awards:

MM

Pre-war Occupations:

Assistant Clerk, Ilkley District Council.

Experience:

14/5/15.

Letter to Councillor Dobson:

Now got guns in position & each day fire a few rounds to show them who is in charge. Now working with First Division, First Army Corps. Country flat / monotonous & straight runs popular. Whole district here like one vast orchard with stagnant dykes. Large smashed up woollen mill and smashed up machinery.

A later letter (10/5/15):

Yesterday in action & hundreds of rounds fired. The move was terrible & nasty to see our wounded chaps walking back. A mile

off firing over heads of infantry. Awaiting order to open fire and sitting round our guns.

IG 6/8/15.

Very impressed with our planes flying low over enemy lines. Calm of day broken by gun reports (sometimes low and distant), often loud and very near. After labours and toils of the day (digging, felling trees and building protections & shelters for guns) - an evening stroll is very refreshing. Occasionally star shells illuminate whole countryside giving a very powerful light. Along the road come infantry men (keen & fresh) loaded up with kit and equipment on way to relieve those in the trenches.

IG 14/9/17.

Awarded MM. To front May 1915.

Gubbins, Colin

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

Royal Artillery

Awards:

MC - MC

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 29/9/16.

Later in SWW was one of the chief figures in S.O.E. (Special Operations Executive). Awarded MC for conspicuous gallantry in rescuing men under heavy shell fire.

Harrop, Rex H.

Age:

20

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Pre-war Occupations:

Bank Clerk - Colne branch Bank of Liverpool.

Experience:

IG 18/10/18.

Missing, late September & now in German hospital as wounded POW. In a tank which was blown up and set on fire by a shell.

IG 18/11/18

POW in Germany.

Hartley, Ronald

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Awards:

MM

Experience:

IG 9/6/16.

Joined in the early stages of the war and acted as a stretcher bearer. During the gas attack on 19th December he rescued 20 men single-handed.

Hirst, Harold

Age:

27

Rank:

Air Mechanic

Regiment:

3 class RAF - 9

Cemetery:

Montevecchio Precaicino Communal Cemtery

Cause of Death:

Pneumonia

Experience:

IG 25/10/18.

Youngest son of Mrs J.B. Hirst of "Woodville", Easby Drive, Ilkley.

Married at Addingham Parish Church 18/9/18 to May Fox, 'Peak Rhydding', Addingham. Joined French Red Cross & then RAF & had served in France & Italy for 2 1/2 years.

Died in Italy of Pneumonia on 16/10/18.

Hobbs, Charles

Rank:

Petty Officer

Regiment:

Royal Navy

Awards:

DSM

War Regions:

Caspian Sea

Experience:

IG 21/11/1919.

DSM for services in Caspian Sea 1918-1919. Served in Royal Navy from 1914 in many parts of the world.

Holroyd, Lister

Rank:

Captain

Regiment:

East Yorkshire Regiment - 7

Cemetery:

Etretat Churchyard

Pre-war Occupations:

Government worker - In Nigeria.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Wounds

Experience:

IG 15/9/16.

Rugby for Ilkley & Yorkshire.

Volunteered for Cameronians in 1914 - invalided home & commissioned to East Yorks, to W. Front Sept 1915.
Promoted Captain after the battle of Fricourt.

Badly wounded face, arm, leg and body by shrapnel. Died of wounds 12/9/16.

Hornby, H.R.

Rank:

Gunner

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 4 Howitzer Bgde

Pre-war Occupations:

In offices of Scottish Widows Assurance Company, Park Row, Leeds.

Experience:

IG 28/7/16

Badly wounded in both legs by a shell landing in gun pit (1 leg had part of the bone removed) on 19 July 1916 and in Victoria Auxiliary Military Hospital in Keighley.

Knowles, Eric Wilkinson

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

Chemist section of Royal Engineers

Cemetery:

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

Pre-war Occupations:

Business man - In his father's business Messrs H & M Knowles wool & noil merchants, 23 Dale Street Bradford.

War Regions:

Flanders (Belgium)

Cause of Death:

Wounds

Experience:

IG 20/7/17.

Originally recruited for Army Service owing to defective eye sight, eventually accepted for RAMC & later transferred to R.E. Died of wounds at casualty clearing station on 14/7/17 at Lijssenthoek.

Lee, Arthur Basil

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 5

Pre-war Occupations:

Stuff Merchant - Messrs Sutherland Parker & Co Stuff Merchants, Bradford.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Shot

Experience:

IG 14/7/16.

Playing member of Ilkley RUFC. Joined W.Riding Division Ammunition Column in early days of war and after 3 months service got commissioned with W. Yrks Rgt.

Killed 2/7/16 by German Officer with revolver at Thiepval in a dug out while Lee was leading men along the trench. At the front from July 1915 & had been accidentally wounded. Name on Thiepval Memorial.

Moisley, Alan

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Canadian Mounted Rifles - 5

Cemetery:

La Chaudiere Military Cemetery

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 27/4/17.

Joined Canadian Mounted Rifles in Montreal Feb 1915 - to England in July 1915 & to France Oct 1916. Killed in action at Vimy 6/4/17.

Moisley, Jason

Rank:

Quartermaster Sergeant

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Awards:

DCM

Pre-war Occupations:

Shoe & boot business - Father's shoes and boot business, The Grove.

Experience:

IG 26/1/17.

Some years in France before taking over father's boot & shoe business on the Grove. Enlisted 9th WR 1914, but owing to his knowledge of France & French language transferred to Army Service Corps attached to Infantry Brigade HQ Staff.

Smeeth, William Sutton

Age:

22

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

RFC, Royal Irish Rifles

Cemetery:

Bolton Abbey Cemetery

War Regions:

France

Cause of Death:

Accident

Experience:

IG 27/7/17; 7/7/16..

Joined public schools battalion as private in Dec 1914 & commission in Royal Irish Rifles with which Regt to W. Front. Wounded July 1916 & later attached RFC, only obtaining wings shortly before death. Death 17/7/17 as result of accident near Bolton Abbey churchyard. Had links with Ben Rhydding.

Smith, Godfrey Michael

Age:

22

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

RFA - 51 Division

Cemetery:

Ilkley Cemetery

Awards:

MC - MC

Cause of Death:

Wounds

Experience:

IG 1/11/18.

Gunner in Howitzer Bgde (Territorials) & mobilised with Brigade - to France in Sept 1914. Returned to France Spring 1915 & home for Commission July 1917. Only back at front 6 weeks when wounded.

Badly wounded in action 13/10/1918. Died at 3rd London Hospital 28/10/18.

"He had resolution, will-power, an NCO aptitude & fulfilled the responsibilities of his tasks." Funeral at St Margaret's & interred in Ilkley Cemetery.

Thorp, Roland

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

RFA

Awards:

MC

Experience:

IG 12/1/17.

Turner, George Corral

Age:

32

Rank:

Captain

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 2/6

Cemetery:

Favreuil British Cemetery

Pre-war Occupations:

Civil Engineer - Spent 3 years in British Columbia.

War Regions:

France

Cause of Death:

Shellfire

Experience:

IG 21/9/17.

Aug 1914 joined the Leeds Univ OTC & commissioned West Yorkshire's 1915. Killed in action 13/9/1917 at Favreuil. From post to post from 4am during continuous & severe shell & trench mortar fire. 5am enemy attacked in force - attack repelled & enemy heavy casualties. Killed instantly by a shell just after leaving a post where leading a hand to hand fight.

Wilkinson, Eric Fitzwalter

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 1/8 Battalion (Leeds Rifles)

Awards:

MC - For conspicuous gallantry and coolness on 15/7/15 near St. Julien. Assisted to carry a wounded man to cover for 120 yards in circumstances of great difficulty and danger, MiD - January 1916.

Pre-war Occupations:

Teacher - Master at Ilkley GS up to start of the war.

Experience:

IG 7/1/16.

West Yorks 1/8 Battalion (Leeds Rifles).

Lt Wilkinson, Rifleman Clough & Pte Mudd out on reconnoitring patrol when the Germans threw in lights and saw them. Mudd shot through the lungs and succumbed in trench 30 minutes later after being carried back by Wilkinson and Clough.

Fellow soldier gives testimony to his bravery - simply adored by his men and they were prepared to go anywhere with him.

Wounded on four occasions and twice mentioned in dispatches.

IG 9/10/17.

K.i.a. on 9/10/17. He was a poet who published a book of verse written at the front.

Wintle, Edward Collingwood

Age:

21

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - (Leeds 'Pals') 15 C Coy

Pre-war Occupations:

Clerk - Liverpool, London & Globe insurance company.
Bradford Office.

War Regions:

Egypt

Cause of Death:

Accident

Experience:

IG 18/2/16.

Accidentally killed in Egypt near Kantara on 9/2/16 only a month after leaving the UK as a result of accidental discharge from another mans rifle, bullet passing through his body.

IG 14/1/16

Left for overseas by sea - an adventure as collided at night with a French Steamer which sank in an hour and a chase by three submarines which chased us the whole afternoon and night and one fired a torpedo which went wide (missed us by anything from 10 feet to 300 yards) - quite near enough to be unpleasant.