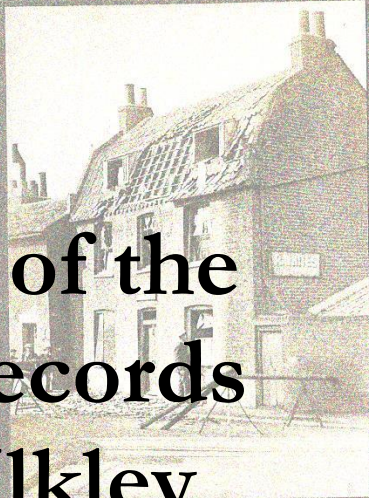


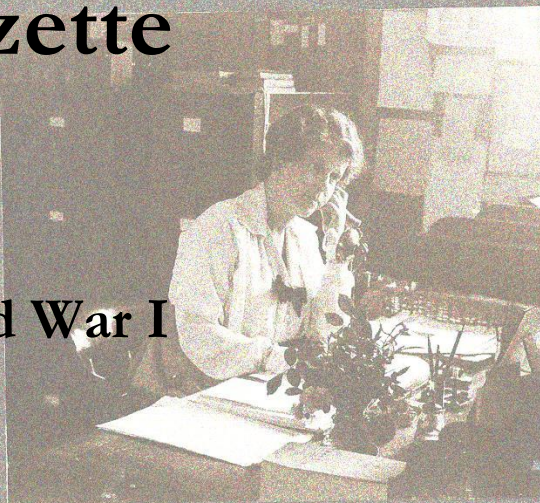
The Battle of the Somme – records from the Ilkley Gazette



After The Explosion – Sep 20th 1917

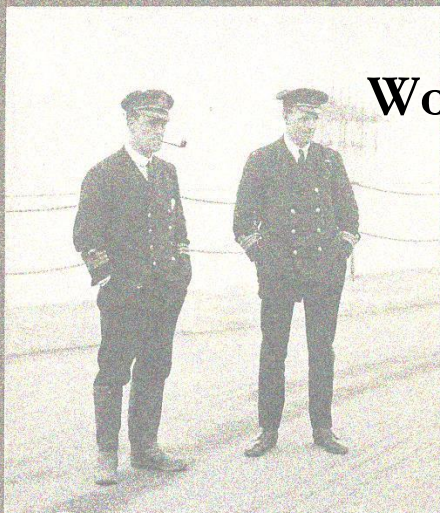


Chief Petty Officer Elite in Fancy Dress



Miss Rowe – Secretary

World War I



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 AND THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

The Battle of the Somme was one of the largest battles that occurred during the First World War. It started on 1 July 1916: described as the worst day in the history of British warfare with 60,000 casualties including 20,000 dead. It lasted until 18 November 1916 by which time just over 7 miles of territory had been gained at the total cost of 423,000 British dead. Overall, French and German casualties were circa 700,000; which resulted in a total of over one million total casualties. The Allies lost 89,000 men per mile of territory gained; ending in November only due to heavy snowfall.

The effect of the Somme had repercussions for numbers enlisting voluntarily and enthusiasm diminished. Pals battalions (so called because volunteers were guaranteed to be placed in battalions with their friends and neighbours and there was a civic pride and a community spirit) were an innovation that bolstered the number of volunteers joining up in a heady atmosphere of naive, optimistic patriotism. When military strategy was found wanting, the price paid was immense both by the men and the communities they left behind. With communities decimated and families mourning losses often of more than one member, the experiment was not repeated. The new volunteer army of 1914/15 was drawn from all social classes and parts of the country.

Many families had relatives at the Front and war service touched nearly every family as did casualties. Many got the tragic news that a relative was wounded or killed or missing. The combination of bereaved families, the disabled who returned

home and the veterans who rarely discussed their experiences have produced a legacy of family stories regarding the Somme. These were passed down to a modern generation for whom the battle is history; as well as by family involvement which is also their history.

The view of “lions led by donkeys” has been put into context and public opinion challenged by historians who put war and battle into context. History is about interpretation not simply “facts” and the process of investigation will continue as long as interest in the Battle of the Somme is sustained. Any historical revisionism is bound to be controversial. Large numbers of ordinary soldiers believed “that the generals did their job, we did ours. We won”.

The full horrors of the battle was clear to see for Ilkley residents by a showing of a film over 5,000 feet in length, in the Kings Hall over three days from 14 September 1916 (the Hall was full for each of the viewings). As one resident said in amazement “Nothing like this had ever been seen before”.

Armitage, Lawrie R.

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Cemetery:

Otley

Awards:

MC - For gallantry in field in Oct 1916.

Pre-war Occupations:

Bank Clerk - At one time employed in Ilkley branch of United Counties Bank, now Barclay & Co.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Wounds

Experience:

IG 1/12/1916.

Died in hospital in Woolwich 25/11/1916 as a result of wounds.

Atkinson, Clarence

Age:

24

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 1/6

Cemetery:

Lonsdale Cemetery

Pre-war Occupations:

Police Constable - In Ilkley

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Trench Mortar

Experience:

IG 1/9/1916.

Killed by trench mortar blowing trench on top of him - died instantly and buried near trenches and white cross marks the spot. Died at Authuille.

Bellerby, Percy

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

East Yorkshire Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

Assistant - Grocer

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 7/7/16.

Joined E Yrks 1914 & in France from July 1915. Hit in chest by a piece of spent shrapnel which "winded" him.

Dalton, P.

Rank:

Bombardier

Regiment:

RFA

Awards:

DCM

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 8/2/18.

Conspicuous Gallantry & dedication to duty. When an ammunition dump was set alight after position had been evacuated he ran across to it, and after a stiff fight succeeded in extinguishing the flames under very heavy shell fire.

Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal.

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.

Duell, George

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Northumberland Fusiliers

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 26/3/15.

In Dublin Castle Red Cross hospital. Bullet struck the knee bone but was reassured by the doctor that it was not broken. Battalion marching up the road to the trenches when he was hit. Returned to the front line trenches and very cold.

IG 8/9/16.

1914 invalided home late 1914 and to France again in Feb 1915. Wounded in knee in March 1916 and then to front and heavy fighting. Missing since 14/7/1916.

Eddison, Thomas Denton

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

Kings Liverpool Regt - 14th attached to 19th

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 18/8/16.

Educated Charney Hall, Grange-over-Sands and Merton College, Oxford.

Enlisted in public schools battalion and granted commission in King's Liverpool Regiment in November 1914. Only son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Eddison.

After training he went to the front in February 1916. Killed in action 30/7/16 leading his platoon, near Thiepval. Name on Thiepval memorial pier.

Field, Edwin Arthur

Age:

22

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment

Cemetery:

Lonsdale Cemetery

War Regions:

Egypt, Flanders (Belgium), France (Somme), Turkey

Cause of Death:

Active Service

Experience:

IG 29/9/16.

Enlisted 1914 in Grenadier guards - after 4 months' service he was given commission in W. Yorks Regt. Fought in Gallipoli and based in Egypt.

Killed in action 14/9/16 in Flanders - during big push against the enemy - died in attack on enemy's strongest positions.

Gray, Martin Kenion

Age:

19

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

KOYLI - 6

Cemetery:

Delville Wood Cemetery

War Regions:

France (Delville Wood), France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Active Service

Experience:

IG 8/9/16.

Recruited 1915 from Leeds Univ, Commissioned Nov 1915, but at the front for only 9 weeks. Killed in action 28/8/16 at Delville Wood - Longueval, France.

Gubbins, Colin

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

Royal Artillery

Awards:

MC

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 29/9/16.

Awarded MC for conspicuous gallantry in rescuing men under heavy shell fire.

Later in SWW was one of the chief figures in S.O.E. (Special Operations Executive).

Hand, Edgar

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment - Bradford 'Pals'

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 25/8/16.

Wounded and missing. Seen at bottom of German trench from which British had to retire. When retook trench all wounded had been removed, and he was presumed to be a POW.

Harrington, Ernest Edward

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Middlesex Regt - 12

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 24/11/16

Killed 26/9/16 - name on Thiepval memorial.

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.

Hudson, Charles

Age:

30

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Northumberland Fusiliers, WR Regiment - 2

Cemetery:

Tincourt Military Cemetery

Pre-war Occupations:

Watch maker & jeweller - Apprentice to Mr. H.S. King, Market Place, Otley.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Wounds

Experience:

IG 21/9/17.

Joined up early March 1916 WR Regt & to France 17/7/16, invalided Oct 1916 (septic poisoning). In Birmingham Hospital. To front again with Northumberland Fusiliers in March 1917.

Died in Casualty Clearing Station at Tincourt 10/9/17 after badly wounded on 9/9/17 - gunshot wounds, both legs & shoulder, only conscious for a very few minutes.

Hudson, George Gregory

Rank:

Lance Corporal

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Cemetery:

Heilly Station Cemetery

Pre-war Occupations:

Messrs James Spencer & Son, cab proprietors & coal merchant, Ilkley.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Wounds

Experience:

IG 14/7/16.

He was a widower with 2 children. Joined pals Sept 1914 while Colonel Haydon with battalion, L/C Hudson acted as his servant.

Died of wounds 6/7/16 France while engaged on trench work at Merricourt-l'Abbe.

Ideson, J.H.

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

Sherwood Foresters

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 14/7/16.

Joined Sherwood Foresters as a Private in 1914 & after trench experience given a commission. Wounded in leg by a bomb 3/7/16 & home on 12/7/16. Eldest brother Maurice in Australian Imperial Force.

Ideson, Maurice

Age:

27

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Australian Imperial Force - 51

Pre-war Occupations:

Worked in Australia from 1910 as Marine Store Dealer.
Previously a ships steward.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 15/9/16.

Married. 1914 W. Front. Killed in action W. Front 3/9/16
instantaneously at Villers-Bretonneux. Name on Villers-
Bretonneux memorial.

Ingham, Jack E.

Rank:

Sgt.

Regiment:

Australian Expeditionary Force

War Regions:

Dardanelles (Turkey), France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 25/6/15 + IG 27/8/15.

Kept very busy with shot and shell casualties heavy. Navy helping us and doing really good work. Shells singing over head, little damage. Some sights are awful as a result of the shrapnel. Later wounded in leg and arms & to a Cairo hospital where recovering. Early landing with Queenslanders in Gallipoli.

Witnessed torpedoing of the "Triumph" - great cloud of smoke and water & when "Triumph" seen had hole in funnel & immediately began to list over. She tried valiantly to get the submarine; firing away until too big a list to work her guns effectively. Sank in 10 minutes yet but out of 700 sailors all but 50 were rescued (lucky).

IG 20/4/18; 28/7/16.

Sgt later Corporal with Australian Expeditionary Force at Gallipoli. Elder son of Ellis Ingham, Ilkley.

In hospital with gas poisoning. This occurred in Gallipoli where he was one of early landing party of Queenslanders. Wounded in leg and arms and to hospital in Cairo where rapidly recovering.

Wounded a third time - shell burst near him causing havoc. Severe bruising and shell shock. Blown up by explosion.

Kellett, Sidney

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Duke of Wellington Regiment - 2 Batt

Pre-war Occupations:

Barber - A barber for Walter Iveson and H. Davies, Brook Street Ilkley & trenches between fights he would shave his chums which was often rough and painful.

War Regions:

Belgium (Ypres), France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 19/3/15.

Wounded in fighting at Ypres & interned at Gardelegen. A recently repatriated 'Tommy', wrote to Kellett's father - food insufficient & only fit for pigs; sleep on bags of straw on the floor with no soap. Sidney would like tinned eatables - if send tobacco or cigarettes put them in a tin and cover with sugar or sweets.

King, John Abbott ('Jock')

Rank:

Lance Corporal

Regiment:

Liverpool Scottish - 1/10

Pre-war Occupations:

Farmer - Farmer in BR at Wharfedale Grange Farm.

War Regions:

France (Somme), Northern France

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 8/9/16.

1914 Yorkshire Hussars & transferred to Liverpool Scottish.
Died 9/8/16 at Thiepval. Name on Thiepval Memorial.

Lambert, Harry

Age:

19

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

East Yorkshire Regiment - 7

Cemetery:

New Military Cemetery, Fricourt

Pre-war Occupations:

Clerk - Clerk Pickersgills Brewery Offices, Pontefract.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 14/7/16.

Killed 1/7/16 leading a platoon after officer got killed. Only 3 of the platoon returned from this action at Fricourt.

Lansdale, Ernest Conway

Age:

21

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

RAF, RASC

Pre-war Occupations:

Returned to Ilkley from Denmark in July 1914 where a representative for Leigh & Pearce Ltd Provision Merchants of Bradford.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

POW (in German hands)

Experience:

IG 20/10/16.

Commissioned in A.S.C. in Oct 1914. Promoted full Lieut June 1915 & to France Jan 1916 - transferred to RFC July and post training to France 17/9/16 doing light work enemy lines.

POW and died in German hands 30/9/16. Reported missing at Bancourt 30/9/16 after flying over German lines. Plane seen in flames & falling to ground. Observer Sgt Clarkson from Blackpool alive and a prisoner.

Lee, Arthur Basil

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

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.

Longfield, J. Norman

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

Lancs Fusiliers, Motor Machine Gun Service

Pre-war Occupations:

Scott Engineering of Bradford whose motor cycle he rode, Wool Merchant - Worked for father whose firm of wool merchants Messrs W. Longfield & Co were Wool merchants in Sunbridge Road, Bradford.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 7/7/16; 12/3/15.

Lancs Fusiliers initially in Motor Machine Gun Service as a Sergeant. Wounded in head and face by shrapnel 28/6/16 & in hospital in London. Has been previously wounded but only slightly caused by bomb burst in trench. Buried for 1 hour & dug out. Bomb splinters in head and shell shock.

Lupton, Basil C.

Rank:

Captain

Regiment:

WR Regiment

Awards:

MC - Won MC in 1916 for gallantry in action.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 20/9/18; 22/9/16.

Joined up while an undergraduate at Cambridge. First slightly wounded and in a London hospital & went to France in July 1918. His elder brother Lance Corp Geoff Arthur Lupton (Royal Fusiliers) killed in action 17/2/17.

17/9/16

Lupton's unit had been attacked by a storm of mortar fire which fell in the trenches exploding a store of hundreds of hand grenades. Casualties were caused and in the horror and confusion Lupton calmly climbed onto the trench parapet and rallied the men. For his courage he was later ordered the Military Cross, the citation reads "Lupton commanded and rallied a detachment with great gallantry under very heavy fire". What it didn't say is that the very heavy fire was British because the new mortar bombs were not used correctly, that is, inexperienced men got the range wrong.

Mallinson, Eric

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Cemetery:

Gordon Dump Cemetery

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 21/7/16.

Lt Ilkley Pals Comp WR Regt 9th (attached to 3rd). Returned from Vancouver to serve in the Army in January 1915.

Maufe, Ernest Gordon

Age:

31

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Royal Fusiliers, Royal West Kent Regt - 11

Pre-war Occupations:

Business man - In business in Barnstaple, Devon.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 3/11/16.

Member of local volunteer training Corps. Married: widow and 1 child. Joined Royal Fusiliers May 1916 & in France from Sept 16 when attached to Royal West Kents. Killed at Thiepval and name on Thiepval memorial.

Maufe, Statham Broadbent

Age:

29

Rank:

Major

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 11

Cemetery:

Heilly Station Cemetery

Awards:

MiD

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Fatally wounded

Experience:

IG 14/7/16.

Married. Died of wounds 5/7/16 at Merricourt l'Abbé. Went to front with one of service battalions & mentioned in dispatches. Buried at Heilly Station Cemetery.

Noble, Harry

Age:

19

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 14/7/16.

Wounded 2/7/1916 after 4 months training & two weeks in France. Wounded in chest and arm & in Liverpool Military hospital & progressing satisfactorily.

Oddy, James Leslie

Rank:

Captain

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 6th

Cemetery:

Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Fatally wounded

Experience:

IG 15/9/16.

Hit by a shell just as moving out with company preparatory to big operation. Died from wounds 3/9/16 at Warloy-Baillon.

Owston, Victor Maxwell

Age:

29

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Australian Imperial Force - 53

Cemetery:

Ration Military Cemetery - La Chapelle-d'Armentieres

Pre-war Occupations:

Before going to Australia in employment of Mr. Dalton, Skipton Road, Ilkley.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 22/12/16.

Died 19/7/16 at La Chapelle-d'Armentieres.

Perks, Leslie Seymour

Age:

19

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 10

Pre-war Occupations:

For 4 years an apprentice in Taylors Drug Stores, The Grove, Ilkley. Later an architect.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 20/10/16.

Joined WR Regiment Sept 1914 & was in France 14 months.
Fell in action 9/10/16 and name on Thiepval Memorial.

Pool, John Henry

Age:

32

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Pre-war Occupations:

Wharfedale Estate Company and then kept a bird shop in the Arcade in Ilkley.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Grenade

Experience:

IG 15/10/15.

On 29/9/15 killed by grenade dropped in trench occupied by 9th WR Regiment. Killed instantly while serving breakfast.

Porritt, W.H.

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 10/8/17.

On active service from June 1916 & wounded on the Somme.
In hospital with gas poisoning.

Priestman, Kenneth Mallorie

Age:

25

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

Royal Engineers - 105 Field Co

Cemetery:

Blighty Valley Cemetery

Pre-war Occupations:

British Electrical Works, Rugby Warwickshire

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Fatally wounded

Experience:

IG 8/9/16.

Commissioned RE 1915 & voluntary driver. Friends
Ambulance Unit at the front. Home in Ilkley weeks ago.

Killed 31/8/1916 in Authuille Wood - large shell fragment
broke his spine - killed in advanced front line. Brother Sgt
RAMC (Territorial Force) & at Casualty Clearing Station.

Renton, George Lister

Age:

19

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

NZ Infantry - 1

Pre-war Occupations:

Timber trade

War Regions:

Egypt, France (Somme), Turkey

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 13/10/16.

Engaged in timber trade in NZ, 1st batch to join the army in NZ after the war had started. Recruited in 1914 and served in Egypt / Gallipoli before fighting on Western front.

Killed 17/9/1916 near Caterpillar Valley - name on Caterpillar Valley memorial.

Scott, Eric Bertram Ralph

Rank:

First Lt.

Regiment:

Royal Engineers (Brigade Signalling Officer) - 25 Div Signal Coy

Cemetery:

Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 21/7/16.

Joined London Electrical Engineers (Territorial) at outbreak of war & commissioned with RE 5/1/15. Went to France Sept 1915 as Brigade Signalling Officer.

Died 10/7/18 at Warloy-Baillon.

Smith, Ralph

Age:

34

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment - 1/8

Pre-war Occupations:

Apprentice - Apprentice house painter with Mr. G.W. Hampshire of Ilkley. Working in Leeds in 1914 in a shop.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 20/10/16.

Married with 3 young children. Oct 1914 joined W. Yorks Regt. & to France from Feb 1915. In Somme he advanced, unscathed but bullet went through his cap.

K.i.a. 27/3/1918.

Vertigan, Alfred

Rank:

Gunner

Regiment:

RFA - 331 Bde A Bty

Cemetery:

Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension

Pre-war Occupations:

Farm hand - Farm hand for 5 years.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Fatally wounded

Experience:

IG 19/4/18.

On 25/3/18 died of wounds in Abbeville.

Vowles, J.H.

Rank:

Signal Sgt.

Regiment:

Rifle Brigade - 7

Pre-war Occupations:

Postman - In Ilkley.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 1/9/16.

Married for two years previous last April. A reservist & joined the Rifle Brigade 5/8/14. Stationed in Sheerness on signalling duty until moved to France for similar work.

K.i.a. 18/8/16 by shell while out superintending telephone lines along the trench. Name on Thiepval Memorial.

Waggitt, William

Age:

27

Rank:

Lance Corporal

Pre-war Occupations:

Gardener for Mr Crabtree, Fairmont, Ilkley.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Cause of Death:

Fatally wounded

Experience:

IG 20/10/16.

Engaged to Miss L.M. Milburn - elder daughter G. Milburn, Gordon Street, Ilkley. Recruited late August, to France June 1915. Wounded in August 1916, 4 months in England & to front Jan 1915.

Badly wounded by German bomb dropped in the trench, had been clearing obstacles on the way to take Boche position. Died on 4/10/16 of wounds - Name on Thiepval Memorial.

Wharton, John W.

Rank:
Gunner

Regiment:
RFA

War Regions:
France (Somme)

Experience:
IG 1/9/16.

In a Sheffield hospital with an arm wound.

Whitaker, Victor

Age:

30

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

RFA

Awards:

MC - 1916

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 20/4/17.

Brother T. Whitaker, Middleton, Ilkley. At front for two years - formerly with Ilkley Howitzers. Shell portions in various places in body - calf of right leg, buttock and back and piece through the right thigh - yet not serious. In hospital abroad then in UK.

Wilcher, Bernard Louis

Rank:

Captain

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

Clerk - In insurance business in Leeds.

War Regions:

France (Somme)

Experience:

IG 28/7/16.

One of original officers of Bantams Battalion trained at Ilkley.
For part of 6 months service in France had company command.
Keen on rugby. Wounded in leg by shrapnel 19 July 1916.