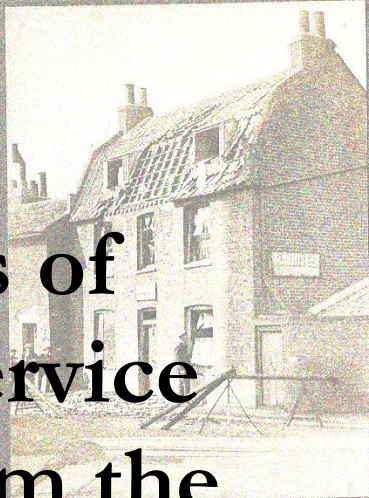
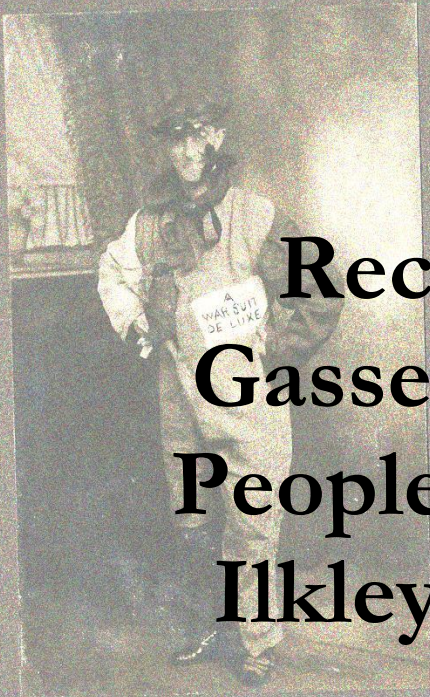


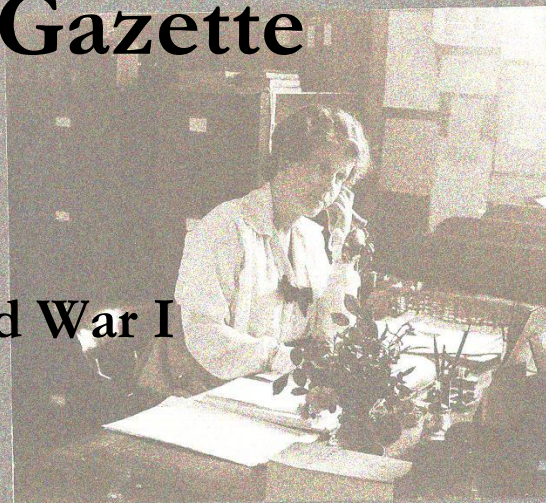
Records of Gassed Service People from the Ilkley Gazette



After The Explosion - Sep 20th 1917

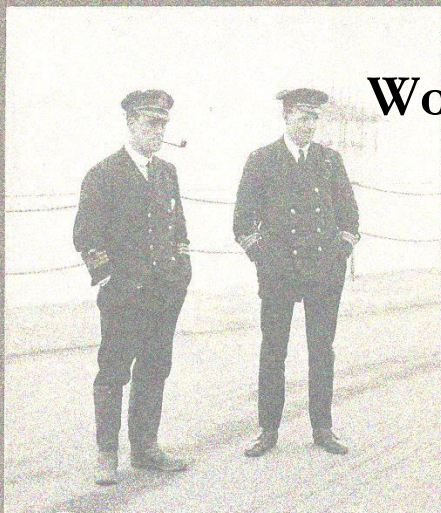


Chief Petty Officer Elite in Fancy Dress



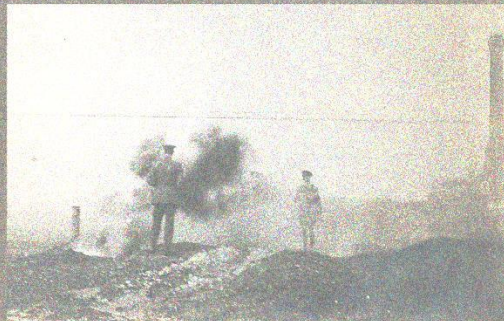
Miss Rowe - Secretary

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. 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)

Barnes, Frank

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own)

War Regions:

Flanders / France

Experience:

IG 13/11/14.

18th Hussars. Wounded in fighting between Mons and the Aisne, but not seriously. Now at Alexandra Hospital, Cosham in Hampshire. Wounded on 1/11/14, prior to this was in hospital in Le Havre.

Promoted to Sgt.

Gassed: Lying 3 days in open - rescued by Royal Engineers & following treatment in France sent to one of Manchester hospitals & then to Colwyn Bay Convalescent Home. Had previously been in hospital 1/11/1914 the same day as his brother Sgt Edward Barnes was killed in action.

Barnes, F

Rank:

Sgt.

Regiment:

Hussars - 18th

War Regions:

Belgium (Mons)

Experience:

IG 11/6/15 & 23/10/14.

In a letter home:

"To get from the front we travelled all day and the following night the motor bus rejoined the regimental HQ and we were into the trenches the same night. We walked six miles there: Germans kept using bright lights to check where we were.

Suddenly at dawn we heard a hissing noise from the German trenches 200 yards away and a yellowish-green smoke. We put on protection but there was coughing and sneezing and some groaned aloud. We retreated to the third line trenches.

We crawled around dazed and the Germans shot at us. We eventually found a ditch and a broken tree where we lay three days drinking only water until the Royal Engineers found us. Oxygen, brandy and soda water saved my life!!"

Another account by the same man IG 23/10/14:

"Mons retreat hard but recently hard whacks. The 2nd Cavalry Brigade did useful work. There was continuous German artillery fire rather than infantry usage. They dropped 2 shells into the middle of the Sixth Lancers at a 6 mile range and killed one officer and 26 rank and file. We were only 200 yards away.

German planes were on the move directing artillery fire - one was shot down and the blokes shot. Many spies were around and when found they were soon shot!"

Botterill, John

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 14/6/18.

Joined the Dukes in Sept 1914 & served in France from July 1915.

Bucknall, R.

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Durham Light Infantry Regiment

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 7/6/1918.

In hospital in France with gas poisoning but going on well. His older brother G.E. Bucknall (RFA) killed in action 26/5/17.

Cooper, Fred

Rank:

Driver

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 4 Howitzer Bgde

Experience:

IG 18/2/16.

On duty at Otley Depot after 20 weeks in West Lothian near Edinburgh suffering gas poisoning.

Dean, Arthur Reginald

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

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

Cemetery:

Croiselles British Cemetery

Awards:

DCM

Cause of Death:

In action

Experience:

IG 31/3/16.

Recently wounded.

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 enemy's 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 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. "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.

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 and buried in Croiselles British Cemetery.

DCM for conspicuous gallantry after being wounded in March 1916 - A private i/c machine gun & sniping & worked this over the parapet despite heavy shell fire. After enemy forced to retire handed over the position and made way to rear.

Debenham, Edward

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Grenadier Guards

Pre-war Occupations:

Porter-guard - Porter at Manningham railway station.

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 27/9/18.

Joined army June 1917 & in France from March 1918. Then taken to Inverness hospital with gas poisoning.

Dinsdale, J.G.

Rank:
Brigadier

Regiment:
RFA

War Regions:
France

Experience:
IG 5/7/1918.

Gassed and admitted to hospital in France.

Ellison, W.

Rank:

Sgt.

Regiment:

Army Cyclist Corps - Ilkley Pals Company, WR Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

Apprentice of Mr. W. Dobson, Brook Street, Ilkley.

Experience:

IG 14/6/18.

In hospital with gas poisoned wound.

Haigh, H. Stansfield

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

RFA

Experience:

IG 22/6/17.

Son of Herbert Haigh, Westwood Mount, Ilkley. Joined RAF in Sept 1914 & given commission. He suffered from the gas & also had shell shock - narrowly escaping more serious injury.

Hampshire, Harry

Rank:

Trooper (Pte)

Regiment:

Yorkshire Hussars Yeomanry

War Regions:

Belgium (Ypres)

Experience:

IG 1/10/15.

Letter:

Yorkshire Hussars France in April (including 12 to 13 men from Ilkley). 1st experience of Trench warfare during 2nd battle of Ypres on Whit Sunday 1915 (in same battle in which Trooper Ellis, Addingham Moorside, died). Experience some fighting attached to the Durham Light Infantry with Cpl. Herbert Swales. 1st shell after a period of calm burst 5 yards from Trooper Hampshire, killing 4 men and 5 horses & wounding 2 more men. They had to make off leaving everything behind, returning later to bury the dead. Several doses of gas shells & then Trooper Hampshire ill with gas and to hospital. On return been digging wiring lines, patrolling roads, directing traffic and escorting transport.

Souvenirs:

Some interesting battlefield souvenirs included a number of sleigh bells attached by the Germans to their wire entanglements for alarm purposes.

Harrison, Arthur

Age:

19

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

South Staffs Regt - 2/6th

Cemetery:

Etaples Military Cemetery

Cause of Death:

Gas poisoning

Experience:

IG 14/12/17.

Joined at 18 years of age and been in France as a signaller for 4 months.

Gas poisoning 7/12/17. Died at Base Hospital in Etaples on 7/12/17. Buried in Etaples Military Cemetery.

Hirst, George

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment

Experience:

IG 8/11/18.

Badly gassed & in hospital. Blind for several days but recovered his sight. Wounded in left shoulder in Aug 1917.

Kendall, Bernard

Age:

19

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

London Regiment - Royal Fusiliers

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 22/11/18.

Joined 1917 & in France from March 1918. Gassed & wounded by shrapnel on 4th November and taken to a French hospital.

Lewis, Albert E.

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

Stone Mason for Messrs Dean and Mennell.

War Regions:

Belgium (Ypres), France

Experience:

IG 21/5/12.

10 days in hospital after gassing by Germans and back to the front.

IG 22/10/15.

Gassed & wounded at Hill 60, retreat & shrapnel in back and in left leg. In Ypres before the Germans bombarded the place. Then a cyclist despatch rider for the Royal Engineers at Rouen. However, owing to after effects of gas was in hospital in Scotland & Eastbourne.

Lupton, Bernard

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Notts / Derby Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

Unknown - Cash fruit stores, Ilkley

Experience:

IG 5/4/18.

In hospital in Huddersfield suffering from gas poisoning.

McRink, J.

Rank:

Sgt.

Regiment:

Hussars - 18

Experience:

IG 4/6/15.

Overcome by poisonous gas fumes 24/5/14. Buried by explosion of a "coal box" & dug out in unconscious state.

In a letter to his wife:

"Just to say hardest 10 days in trenches since the war began. Took trench, great loss to Germans - we lost a good few though the Germans suffered more severely. Many prisoners taken. Continuous fighting and weather is wretched - up to knees in thick mud and water. 10 days, worth of beard - no washing - clothes covered in clay. Soon leaving firing line to prepare for Spring."

In another letter home he wrote:

"A little stiff out here. Two horses killed under me and several of my chums killed or wounded, so I must be one of the lucky ones. Fighting perhaps not much longer as Germans are starving. Rather a hard time with us. Only nine hours, sleep in a

week and eleven hours in another. Always in the fighting line and on the go."

Just before going to the front married a daughter of Mrs Britton, Wellington Road, Ilkley.

Peacock, George

Age:

22

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 1/6

Pre-war Occupations:

Gardener employed by Dobson, Woodbank, Ilkley.

War Regions:

Flanders (Belgium)

Cause of Death:

Fatally wounded

Experience:

IG 8/3/18.

Twice wounded & once gassed, returned to front, leave 18/2/18.
Severe injuries to buttock, shoulder and ankle. Died from
wounds at Casualty Clearing station in Flanders on 28/2/18.
Laid to rest in Military Cemetery nearby.

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.
To hospital with gas poisoning.

Richardson, Arthur

Rank:
Signaller

Regiment:
RGA

Experience:
IG 13/9/18.

In French hospital suffering from gas poisoning.

Scaife, Jasper

Age:

37

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

WR Regiment - 9th

Pre-war Occupations:

Unknown - For 9 years with Mr. F Walker of Ilkley Corn Mill.

War Regions:

France

Cause of Death:

Wounds

Experience:

IG 18/1/18.

Joined 'Ilkley Pals' (WR Regt 9th) in 1914 - 3 times wounded & once gassed. Terrible injuries to his back on 6/1/18. Died from wounds 13/1/18 at Stationary Hosp, Rouen.

Smith, John William

Rank:

Cpl

Regiment:

Northumberland Fusiliers, W. Yorks Regiment - 9th Battalion

War Regions:

Dardanelles (Turkey)

Experience:

IG 3/9/15.

Wounded 3 times.

Previous a Private in 9th West Yorkshire Machine Gun Section. Hit on 12/8/1915 in Dardanelles - going on OK and on way to base. Other Ilkley men Privates, Lambert, Collyer & Weedon, were wounded in the same battle. 2 brothers Alfred in 4th WR Howitzer Bgde & Charles with 9th Batt. WR Regiment in France & Flanders.

In French hospital with severe gas poisoning. 3 times wounded.

Sykes, Arthur

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment - Attached to RE

Experience:

IG 27/7/17.

Gas poisoning.

Tarr, F.

Rank:

Sgt.

Regiment:

Duke of Wellington Regiment - 9

Pre-war Occupations:

IUDC Roadman.

Experience:

IG 7/1/16.

Severe wound in left shoulder as well as being gassed.

Wood, Richard

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Army Service Corps - Motor Transport

Pre-war Occupations:

A chauffeur and drove for Mr. A. Wilkinson in Ilkley.

Experience:

IG 26/11/15.

Driving motor transport column somewhere in France. Flat and fertile landscape. Just entered a town as Germans started to shell it. Very little damage, no shells over for a week and then tonight six came over (not one burst). A military cinema theatre & soldiers club + Chaplin films. Roads terrible and often get stuck bumping engine on the ground.