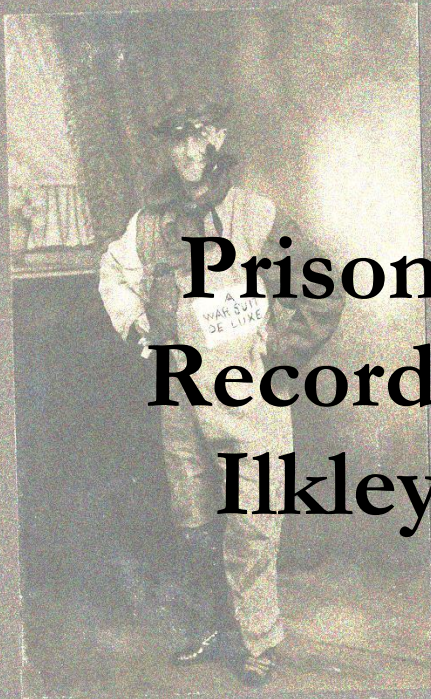
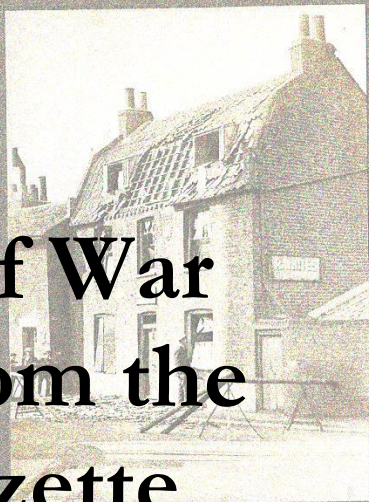


Prisoner of War Records from the Ilkley Gazette

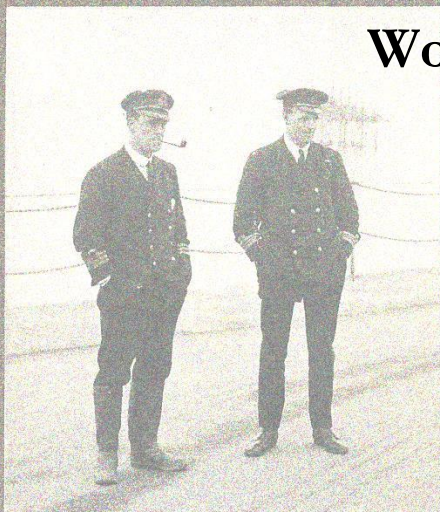


Chief Petty Officer Elite in Fancy Dress



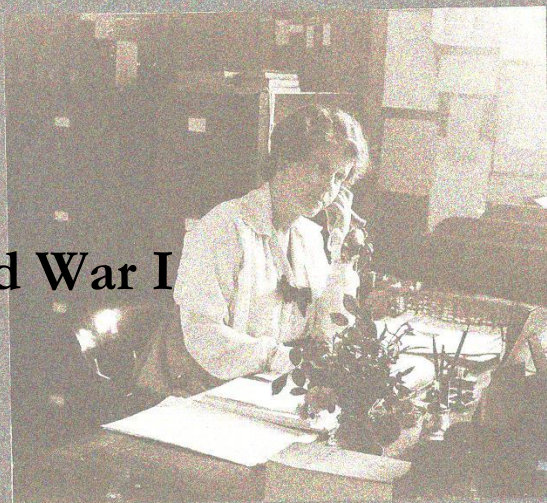
After The Explosion - Sep 20th 1917

World War I

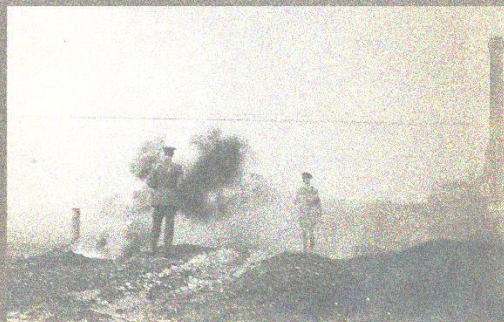


At Dover

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



Miss Rowe - Secretary



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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)

Barwick, Fred

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

W. Yorks Regiment

War Regions:

France

Experience:

IG 13/9/18.

Severely wounded May 1917 - returning to France Sept 1917
after being for some time in hospital in England. Missing since
25/5/18 & then reported as a POW in Germany.

Bradley, Ralph

Rank:

Lance Corporal

Regiment:

West Riding Regiment

Experience:

IG 3/5/18.

Ilkley 'Pals', WR Regiment. In office representing POWs in Germany.

Bradley, Ernest

Rank:

Lance Corporal

Regiment:

WR Regiment

Experience:

IG 23/8/18.

For Some time POW in Germany, lost little finger and part of thumb of right hand as result accident while working in 'coal fields', in Germany.

Calvert, Alfred, Halstead

Pre-war Occupations:

Rep in Germany for Edward Green & Sons engineers.

Experience:

IG 18/1/18.

In Ruhleben civilian prison camp in Germany.

Lived near Dresden in 1914 - travelled in Saxony & Siberia. Arrested & then liberated & re-arrested on 8 Nov 1914 & 3 weeks, solitary and then to Ruhleben & released on 2/1/18. 4,000 men interned in camp. Potatoes, turnips, soup as rations & liberally supplemented with food from England. Plenty of educational and leisure activities. Very thin on arrival in Ilkley where greeted by his wife and children.

Dale, Philip F.

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

Essex Regiment

War Regions:

France (Loos)

Experience:

IG 24/5/18.

Just arrived in 1914 and captured at Loos (26/9/15) & escaped from Ludwigshafen in Germany where confined for 2 years 3 months. He had made 4 previous escape attempts.

IG 19/11/15.

Captured injured with slight upper leg flesh wound between trenches and attack on German trenches over 1,000 yards. His flank lost heavily and separated from the rest of the regiment. Imprisoned at Officer's Camp at Gütersloh, North Rhine-Westphalia.

Dalton, Charles Noel

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment

Experience:

IG 6/10/16.

POW in Germany in convalescent camp from 3/9/16 near Nuremberg. Works on farm, 3d a day threshing. Farmers drive oxen about in a wagon. Eat with family and all feed out of the same pot. All work done the old fashioned way. 3 other Brits also work on the farm for a few weeks.

Denison, Norman

Age:

19

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

RAMC, RFC

Awards:

MID

Experience:

IG 18/5/17.

Joined RAMC as Pte & late received commission in Royal Flying Corps. POW Karlsruhe Germany. Attacked 6 German machines and 2 destroyed. 2 British planes went further over German lines and no more news. Queen Victoria Jubilee Fund Association in Geneva reported he was a POW.

MiD just before the incident leading to his capture.

Gell, John Samuel

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Northumberland Fusiliers

Pre-war Occupations:

Salesman - In employment of Mr Harry Hampshire, fish / poultry salesman, Brook Street, Ilkley.

Experience:

IG 24/5/18.

Joined up May 1916 & to France Sept 1916 - having spent a period in hospital as a sick case.

POW from April 1916, arrived in Dover 18/11 and at his home in Little Lane on 21/11. Very badly treated, starved & beaten as POW in Belgium.

Green, John Israel

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

Mineral Water Manufacturer - Drighlington., Traveller - A traveller in employment of Messrs Fattorini & Sons jewellers Bradford.

Experience:

IG 25/5/17.

Missing as POW from 2/5/17.

Hand, Edgar

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment - Bradford 'Pals'

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.

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.

Holden, John C

Rank:

Private

Pre-war Occupations:

Postman in Castleford & previously postman in Ilkley.

Experience:

IG 3/6/17.

POW Germany from 3/5/17.

Kellet, Sidney

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Duke of Wellington Regiment - 2 Batt

Pre-war Occupations:

A barber with Walter Ineson and H. Davies, Brook Street, Ilkley. In the trenches between fights he would shave his chums which was often rough and painful.

War Regions:

Belgium (Ypres)

Experience:

IG 19/3/12.

Wounded at Ypres & taken prisoner and now interned at Gardelegen, Germany.

Labatt, G.H.

Age:

21

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

RAF

Experience:

IG 16/8/18.

Reported missing 22 July 1917 - attacked in clouds by enemy planes and came down behind enemy lines and taken prisoner. Whilst a prisoner learnt of his promotion to Flying Officer Observer.

Lansdale, Ernest Conway

Age:

21

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

RAF, RASC

Pre-war Occupations:

Rep - Returned to Ilkley from Denmark in July 1914 where rep Leigh & Pearce Ltd Provision Merchants of Bradford.

Cause of Death:

POW (in German hands)

Experience:

IG 20/10/16.

Commissioned in A.S.C. in Oct 1914. Promoted full Lieutenant 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 Sergeant Clarkson (from Blackpool) alive and a prisoner.

Lansdale, H.

Rank:

2nd Lt.

Regiment:

Sussex Yeomanry Cadet Corps

Pre-war Occupations:

Real Estate & farm stock valuers, lives in Sussex.

Experience:

IG 29/11/18.

Missing from 30/10 when his machine engaged with enemy planes and wounded & in hospital in Germany.

Lee, W.

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

KOYLI - 2

Experience:

IG 23/10/14; 11/12/14.

Seriously wounded on 26th August, 1914 at Mons and taken prisoner. Now in Dusseldorf from where writes to aunt to say improving nicely. Removed in November from prison hospital to prison camp

Lister, T.

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Durham Light Infantry Regiment

Pre-war Occupations:

Plumber - In employment Mr R Bradley, Ilkley.

Experience:

IG 7/6/18.

Joined army early 1916. To France Oct 1916. POW in Germany.

Mennell, William

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

WR Regiment

Awards:

MM

Pre-war Occupations:

Gas Meter Inspector - Ilkley District Council.

Experience:

IG 19/4/18; 7/6/18.

POW in Germany in 1918. Military Medal for bringing in wounded under heavy shell fire.

Middlebrook, Norman

Age:

19

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

RFC

Pre-war Occupations:

Partner in firm Messrs W & E.H. Middlebrook solicitors, Leeds
nephew Sir William Middlebrook M.P. South Leeds.

Experience:

IG 3/11/16.

Commissioned at Cambridge in 1915 & into Rifle Brigade
transfer to RFC. Later One or Two flights over Ilkley &
alighted on Addingham Moorside. His brother Pte. J.
Middlebrook in RAMC.

Saunders, T.W.

Rank:

Gunner

Pre-war Occupations:

Chauffeur - Mechanic - Mr A. Jenkinson, Iddesleigh, Ilkley

War Regions:

Turkey

Experience:

IG 13/10/16; 1/6/17.

Joined up as armoured car driver. On leave Oct 1916 before proceeding overseas with a "tank", a remarkable engine, modern warfare (shape, propulsion & weight allows to clear away & overcome obstacles). Later POW in Turkish hands. In letter to Saunders' parents 24/4/17 from Lieutenant Stanley Wray says Saunders set on fire in front of Turkish lines & transpires he was taken prisoner.

Wilkinson, George

Rank:

Lt.

Regiment:

Lancs Fusiliers

Experience:

IG 30/10/14.

Lying on floor in French church being used as a temporary German hospital. Taken there after lying out in the open for 2 days wounded in 6 places by bursting of a shell.

Wright, J.R.

Rank:

Private

Regiment:

Durham Light Infantry Regiment

Experience:

IG 6/12/18.

POW from 27/5/1918 & employed behind German lines.
Arrived in Ilkley 2/12/1918.