

# THE WAR DEAD OF YARM

## INTRODUCTION

The question of a war memorial for Yarm was first discussed at a Parish Council meeting held on 5 February 1919. Councillor George Campbell, who just a month before had heard of the death of his only son on active service, chaired the meeting. It was resolved to call a public meeting for Wednesday 19 February in the Council School to consider what should be done.

At the public meeting Mr Hedley stated that he understood Mr J R Clapham had offered to build a new Town Hall as a War Memorial if it could be erected on the site of the existing structure. Mr Fawcett, on behalf of the Lord of the Manor, Mr Maynell, confirmed that there would be no objection to this scheme. After some further discussion it was agreed by 47 votes to 5 that the offer be accepted. At the same time a memorial committee was duly elected consisting of Messrs Clapham, Holt, Hedley, Campbell, Adamson, Fawcett and Whitwell.

By mid-April plans for the new Town Hall were ready for submission to Stokesley Council. However, a reaction set in against demolishing the historic Town Hall. This is evidenced by the comments of the Vicar of Egglescliffe in the Parish Magazine for April 1919:

“Some of Yarm’s neighbours trust that their war memorial will find a shape that will not destroy a building which gives character to its street and is in harmony with its surroundings.”

On 4 June 1919 a letter was read to the Parish Council stating that Mr Clapham had withdrawn his offer of the new Town Hall and the scheme proceeded no further. It was agreed to thank Mr Clapham for his offer and to ask him if he could suggest any other ideas. It was ultimately agreed that he would give to the community the open space at the top of Bentley Wynd known as Snaithsfield.

In the same month the new Rector of Yarm, the Rev Barnsley, was writing in the Parish Magazine that :

“a fitting memorial should be erected... this memorial should most fittingly take the form of a cross. A dignified and stately cross erected in a central position and built of warm red stone.”

In view of the ultimate result it is clear that the Rector must have played an important part in the move for a memorial cross. In October 1919 Capt H T Fawcett MC presided over a meeting where it was decided to place a contract for a memorial to be erected on a site at the south end of the Town Hall with a Mr Seymour. The cost was to be £265 10s. 6d.

Within a few months the work was complete. There then stood by the Town Hall a tall octagonal double-cross of red scotch stone with the full names and ranks of the dead carved around the base, together with the words “They are crowned with the garland of immortality.”

At 1500 hours on Saturday, 12 June 1920 the memorial was unveiled by Sir Hugh Bell, Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding. The ceremony was attended by most of the town’s inhabitants and presided over by Mr E R Whitwell. It began with the singing of the hymn “Through the night of doubt and sorrow”. Then the Methodist minister of Yarm from 1919 to 1922, the Rev James W Trevvett, offered a prayer with Rev Barnsley afterwards reading a short passage from Scripture. Mr Whitwell then said that he wished to convey to the relatives of the fallen the sympathy of the whole community. After reading the roll of honour the Rev Barnsley led those present in the following prayer: “With bowed heads and grateful hearts we salute our glorious dead; may they rest in peace; may their memory never fade.” Buglers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Thornaby Scouts then sounded the Last Post.

Before unveiling the memorial Sir Hugh remarked that:

“When twenty years ago Yarm put up a simple memorial to those who went to serve their country in South Africa they little thought that within a generation they would be assembled to unveil a monument of a much deeper significance. The two things, however, are naturally connected together in ones mind and those who look at the history of the past half century, for instance, would see that the struggle in South Africa was in fact but a prelude to that much greater struggle which the early years of this century were to bring up. It seems very appropriate that the people of Yarm should erect in front of the South African War tablet on the Town Hall a cross commemorating the much greater service and more strenuous effort which the country was called upon to make from August 1914 to November 1918.

Rightly looked upon you should all regard this as a pleasurable occasion although the pleasure is of a sober and temperate kind, but none the less it is a pleasure to commemorate the great deeds of those whose services we are here to recognise. To me personally it was a great pleasure that those who had conduct of the proceedings had been kind enough to invite me in my capacity of Lieutenant of the Riding to take a prominent part in the ceremony.

When the war broke out, for a moment, but only for a moment I doubted whether the people of this country would understand what the issues were which were presented for the arbitrament of the sword. But it did not take long to make it clear to me that my fellow countrymen understood, as well at least, as I did, what was at issue. I think we can define that now without any doubt or hesitation. We stood in the first place for our own personal freedom in this country, we stood to protect ourselves from those horrors of warfare which, thank Heaven, this country knows but by repute, never for generations there having been a hostile invader on these shores. We stood however, for more than that – we stood for the freedom of the world. In the bitter months that passed from 1914 until 1918 as the struggle swayed back and forth many of us were in terror lest that for which we stood should go under. Again I say, thank Heaven that sad fate did not befall us, and we came through victorious, having attained the end for which we set out.

I congratulate the people of Yarm on the fact that 350 out of the 1500 inhabitants – generally every one of the adult males – had contributed to the £240 raised to erect the cross. Through them I offer the architect my congratulations upon the way in which he has carried out his commission. I would also like to congratulate the architect and I hope that I might say thankyou on behalf of the people of Yarm for the assiduousness he has shown in perfecting his design.

In conclusion I was desired to convey to the gathering the congratulations of a body of persons who preserve a tender recollection of the kindness which they received at the hands of the inhabitants of Yarm. I refer to the Belgian refugees who you entertained in their hour of trouble. They have communicated with the committee and desire their thanks and congratulations be specially accorded to the inhabitants. I am glad to be the mouthpiece to convey to the people of Yarm that recognition of kindly services rendered to the Belgians.”

Then, drawing aside the Union Jack which covered the base of the memorial Sir Hugh said:

“I present on behalf of the subscribers to the inhabitants of Yarm and to their successors as long as this cross shall stand, a memorial of the Great War – to the memory of our glorious dead and the Great War of 1914-1919.”

Following the singing of the hymn “On the resurrection morning” the Reveille was sounded by ex-Bugler Hill of the 4<sup>th</sup> Yorkshire Regiment and the ceremony finished with the singing of the National Anthem and the laying of wreaths.

After the service the Rector, writing in the Parish Magazine commented that he felt  
“The ceremony of unveiling suffered from the shortness of the notice which preceded it.  
I should have preferred it to have been a full military affair... as certainly did the Lord  
Lieutenant.”

The townspeople generally took greater issue over the double-headed cross design and therefore soon after the unveiling the cross was replaced by the one seen today.

During the early part of 1925 and again in 1930 complaints were received by the Parish Council about the bad condition of the memorial. These complaints were drawn to the attention of the memorial committee but on the last occasion to no apparent effect. Therefore, at the Parish Council meeting of 8 May 1930 it was resolved that the Council would take over the upkeep and general wellbeing of the memorial without responsibility for its design or situation.

After the Second World War the then Rector, the Rev C H B Barker, decided that there should be a tablet erected in the Church commemorating the dead of both wars. During 1948 he began collecting information and later an oak tablet was fixed to the west wall bearing the names of the dead painted on in gold. The tablet had been designed and executed by Ralph Hedley of Newcastle and was dedicated and unveiled by the Bishop of Whitby on 20 September 1952. The related service was conducted by the Rev Barker supported by the Rev Yates-Moore of Egglecliffe and Mr Hunter-Garbutt, a lay reader in Yarm.

In November 1961 the Rev Barker wrote to the Parish Council that

“I have long felt that it is a great pity that there is no mention of the names of those who fell in the Second World War... on our... Town Memorial.... Besides that, the names of those who fell in the First World War... are crumbling where they are at the bottom of the panels.”

He then asked the Council if they could do anything to rectify these matters. Spurred on by this request the Council, at its meeting on 14 February 1962, accepted a tender from William Arrowsmith & Son, Monumental Sculptors of Redcar in the sum of £205 for cleaning the memorial and carving the names onto Broughton Moor Green Slate. The work was carried out by June.

It is not known how the names for the two wars were compiled. However it is clear that in the case of the First World War in particular there are a number of errors. Not only were names misspelt or wrong Christian names used but in several cases persons were recorded who had no connection with Yarm when they enlisted while others, deserving of some memorial in the town, were completely overlooked.

The roll that follows is therefore an attempt to provide as complete a record of the war dead of Yarm as can now be compiled bearing in mind the difficulty or in some cases impossibility of obtaining information at a time so distant from the wars themselves. This will also necessitate identifying those names who should not be on the memorial. The reason for their inclusion was usually because the family either lived in the town or came to live there later and wanted a focal point for their memories and with the passage of time there would seem no harm to list them as being inappropriate entries. These names are shown within square brackets and in italics in their proper alphabetical order and are all commemorated elsewhere. Those who are not local but are not commemorated anywhere else are left on since I would rather someone be commemorated here than not commemorated at all.

The sources I have used in this compilation are:

~~the~~ The Commonwealth War Graves Commission whose web page now allows searching of names quickly and easily.

- ~~///~~ Officers Died and Soldiers Died volumes which were originally printed in 1919-21 but which are now available on a fully searchable CD Rom
- ~~///~~ Registers of Electors for 1913 and 1938 held at Northallerton CRO which help to confirm home addresses of casualties on the eve of the wars.
- ~~///~~ Directories for 1913 and 1938 held at Middlesbrough Reference Library which again help to identify local families and give addresses and occupations.
- ~~///~~ Local Newspapers – particularly the Northern Echo and the Darlington and Stockton Times. The latter had information in the Yarm Notes and Military News sections. Microfilm copies are at Darlington Reference Library.
- ~~///~~ Church Papers and Handbooks. Church papers relating to the memorial tablet erected in the church and compiled around 1950 include lists of war dead and name those who served. They are held by the Cleveland CRO. The work “The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm” by H Ramsey (2<sup>nd</sup> ed by Rev C Barker 1970) has material on the memorials to specific individuals who fell in action.

It should be mentioned that there are two other war memorials in the parish serving specific purposes not directly connected with the parish itself:

- ~~///~~ A 1914-18 memorial plaque in the Methodist Church listing local Methodists who died. As the church served a large catchment residents of parishes other than Yarm are included. The memorial lists fifteen names of whom only nine are on the parish memorial.
- ~~///~~ Memorial plaques for both wars were displayed in the school hall of the former Yarm Grammar School. These are now held in Conyers School as successor to the Grammar School. Both memorials list those who died and in addition the First World War memorial lists those who served. Since the school catered for people from both Yorkshire and Durham the 1914-18 memorial lists 95 who served and 20 who died of whom only three came from Yarm while the 1939-45 memorial lists 18 dead of whom only four came from Yarm.

## CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION

As I have said above, I have taken this opportunity to identify names which should be included in Yarm’s memorial and which should not. Those that should be included are marked with an asterisk and those that should not are recorded in italics. The decisions I have taken can only be understood if based on the criteria I set out below by which each entry is judged. Obviously, it is not always possible to confirm beyond doubt whether someone is or is not appropriate for Yarm but decisions will be made on the best evidence available and how that fits with the criteria.

All persons, regardless of sex, rank or position who

1. Were
  - 1.1 ordinarily resident in the parish on the date of their enlistment; or
  - 1.2 who became ordinarily resident after enlistment and before their date of death either personally or by residence within the parish of those family members with whom they would normally be expected to reside if they had not enlisted; and
2. had enlisted in either a full time or part time capacity
  - 2.1 in the military, naval, marine or air force units (whether regular, reserve or territorial) of the United Kingdom, or of any commonwealth dominion, colony, dependency or protectorate or any allied nation;
  - 2.2 in home defence, home guard, militarised police or coast guard units or any other militarised civilian body;

2.3 to serve on any seagoing merchant or fishing vessels owned by, at the disposal of or sailing under the flag of the United Kingdom or any commonwealth or allied nation;

2.4 in any auxiliary, non combatant or support organisation subject to military law or attached to, serving with or giving assistance to any of the units or vessels mentioned above or directly aiding military operations;

or as a civilian, served regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions or supervision of any of the foregoing; and

3. were concerned or engaged in any way whatsoever, whether at home or abroad
  - 3.1 with operations against an enemy which were or had been in progress or were imminent or other activities of a warlike nature;
  - 3.2 in operations for the protection of life and property; or
  - 3.3 in the military occupation of any territory; and
4. Were killed in action or accidentally or died as a result of wound inflicted or injuries received or of disease or illness suffered, contracted or commencing while being so concerned or which had been aggravated thereby having existed before or arisen during such period; and
5. whose death took place on or between the following dates:
  - 5.1 BOER WAR: 11 October 1899 to 31 May 1902 (declaration of war to signing of surrender)
  - 5.2 WWI: 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921 (declaration of war to the date of “termination of the present war” specified in SR&O 1921 No 1276)
  - 5.3 WWII: 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947 (declaration of war to the date determined by the CWGC as being the one beyond which they would not record deaths. The State of War with Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland and Austria ended in September 1947 and with Japan and German in 1951)
  - 5.4 KOREAN WAR: 27 Jun 1950 to 24 July 1954 (the dates relevant to the award of the UN Medal for Korea)

## LIST OF NAMES

### BOER WAR 1899-1902

O'SHAUGHNESSY, Owen. Pte 2258 1<sup>st</sup> Yorks. KIA at Paardeberg 18 Feb 1900. Recorded as living in the High St, Yarm.<sup>1</sup>

### WORLD WAR ONE 1914-1921

ADAMSON, Percy William. Pte 2394 1/4<sup>th</sup> E Yorks. DOW 9 May 1915 aged 28. Son of John Adamson, headmaster of Yarm School and member of the Parish Council, and his wife Elizabeth, both of High St, Yarm. He had been born in Yarm and was living there at the time of his enlistment at Londesborough Barracks, Hull. Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cem, France – 1 A 104<sup>2</sup>

ALLSOPP, William. Pte 1975 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA by a German sniper on 21 Aug 1915 while on look-out duty. A local Methodist, he had been born in Yarm and was widely respected in the town. He had just retired from the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks Terriers but rejoined at Northallerton in Sept 1914. He was a good marksman and was the unit sniper. On one occasion he saw a German officer with powerful glasses surveying the British lines. He took aim and shattered the glasses. Allsopp is buried at La Chapelle d'Armentieres Com Cem, Belgium – H 2

Two of his letters home were printed. In the first he reported that he had left for the trenches on the Thursday after their arrival and had remained there until last Monday when they had been allowed a short rest. He wrote that those at home could not realise what it was like – for it was terrible. They had some losses, amongst whom were some good officers and it would be a blessing if the war ended. His unit had made a good name for itself, being called “Ghurkas.” The regulars had said that the way they fought they were worse than Ghurkas. In a later letter he said that they had just come out of the trenches and got plenty of drilling to keep them fit. It was a nice place where they were billeted, about two miles from the firing line, and they just got a few shells over now and again. It had been a bit lively in the trenches and he expected to have another dust-up shortly. He felt there were a lot of young men at home who wouldn't join, but the lads who came home would tell them what it was like out in France. “If one could see the sights of women and children they would not be backward in coming forward and trying to stop the dreadful effects of the war.” There had been one city they had had to go through week after week where before the streets had been cleared there were dead women and children armless and legless, laid in the middle of the road with dead horses. There had been no time to remove them for shells were continually bursting and thundering over them. “It was awful to see the sacrifice of many a thousand innocent lives. If any one can stay at home when they know this is done... they are cowards.” he concluded.<sup>3</sup>

ARCHER, Ronald Hedley. 2/Lt 1<sup>st</sup> N Fus. Wounded in the leg in action at Bapaume and had his leg amputated on Christmas Eve 1917 but DOW 27 Dec 1917 aged 41. Eldest son of Charles John Archer of Sorrelsykes Park, Leyburn. After being educated at Uppingham School (Fircroft House) from Sep 1889 to Spring 1893 he was admitted as a Solicitor in February 1899. Before enlisting for active service he was active in the Stockton VTC. At the time of his commission in 1915 he was living with his wife, Mrs M E Archer and three children at Bentley House, Yarm and was a partner in the firm of Messrs Archer, Parkin and Archer, Solicitors of Stockton. After his death his widow moved to Hutton Rudby. Archer took a deep interest in the public affairs of the town – being a member of the Parish Council (who on hearing of his death passed a unanimous vote of condolence), President of the Horticultural Society and otherwise generally associating himself with movements aiding the welfare of the inhabitants of Yarm. Archers son, John Dennes Archer had been born in Sep 1909 and attended Uppingham School from 1923 to 1926 on the Sweet

Scholarship. He was a Lieutenant in the East African Engineers in Abyssinia before his death in Oct 1942. Archer is recorded on the Stockton Roll of Honour in the Parish Church, presumably because he worked in the town but it is clear he lived in Yarm when he enlisted. He is buried in Grevillers Cem, France – 8 E 14<sup>4</sup>

\*ATKINSON, Harold Bert. Pte 15147 6<sup>th</sup> East Yorks. KIA 9 Aug 1915 aged 19. Son of John and Elizabeth Atkinson of Castle Hills, Worsall, Yarm. He was born in Stokesley and enlisted in Durham while living in Yarm. Helles Memorial, Turkey – Panel 51/54<sup>5</sup>

\*AYTON, Benjamin. Pte 5/2948 1/5<sup>th</sup> DLI. DOW 16 Sep 1916 aged 19. Son of Arthur and J E Ayton of Mill House, Darlington Rd, Yarm. He enlisted in Stockton while living in Yarm. Dernancourt Com Cem Extn, France – II D 34<sup>6</sup>

BAILEY, Arthur. Pte It has been impossible to identify any Arthur Bailey having a direct contact with Yarm. However as his name is on both the War Memorial and the Methodist Church Memorial this suggests he was known locally and his name is left on the record.

BARNSLEY, Alan Arthur. Capt 4<sup>th</sup> Lancs Fus attd 1<sup>st</sup> N Fus. KIA between 25 and 27 Oct 1914 aged 37. Born Sep 1877 the second son of the late Arthur Barnsley of Southward Rd, Liverpool. His brother was the Rev George Barnsley MA, Rector of Yarm from 1919 to 1930 and his wife Ethel Edna later remarried and became Mrs Summers of Mount Stuart, Boscombe, Hants. Barnsley attended Uppingham School between May 1892 and the Summer of 1897 and then went to Oxford. At both places he was in the Shooting Eights. He served in the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa 1900-1901 and was mentioned in despatches twice as well as receiving the Queens Medal and two clasps. He was made an honorary Lieutenant in the Special Reserve in Dec 1902, at the same time as he entered the Lancs Fus. He became proficient in many military subjects – he was qualified in musketry, obtained a certificate in transport duties, was instructor in army signals and Regimental instructor in musketry. He was made Capt in May 1906. At Christmas 1919 a Processional Cross was presented to Yarm Church by Miss Florence Blythe in the memory of her nephew. It is clear that Barnsley was not a Yarm man but was probably included out of deference to the new Rector's wishes. Because of his fathers death and the fact that his brother had moved to Yarm his name does not appear to be recorded elsewhere and for this reason his name remains.<sup>7</sup>

BELL, Bert. Pte 38634 1<sup>st</sup> E Yorks. KIA 8 Jan 1918. Born in Yarm and enlisted in Stokesley in Sep 1914 while living in Yarm. He left a wife and young child. Ephey Wood Farm Cem, France – 5 F 2<sup>8</sup>

CAMPBELL, George William. Dvr 120719 65<sup>th</sup> Small Arms Ammo Col, RFA. Died of pneumonia 30 Dec 1918 aged 24. Son of George Archibald Campbell, Manager of the Yarm Branch of the Co-op and Chairman of the Parish Council, and his wife Mary Ann, both of Riversdale, Bridge St, Yarm. Mr Adamson of the Parish Council moved a vote of sympathy and condolence be sent to Mr & Mrs Campbell and daughters on the loss of their dear son who died for his King and country and “the vote was carried in silence.” Mikra British Cem, Salonika, Greece – 1044. [Joseph Dawson also died at the same time and place]<sup>9</sup>

CARTMELL, Percy William. Cpl 201686 8<sup>th</sup> Yorks. Died of disease 7 Dec 1918 aged 23. Son of Robert Cartmell, a Miller of Brewery House, Yarm and Mary his wife; brother of Robert (see next entry). Cartmell had been born in Yarm and was living there on his enlistment at Northallerton. Montecchio Precalcino Com Cem Extn, Italy – 9 C 10<sup>10</sup>

CARTMELL, Robert Hesketh. Pte 28108 6<sup>th</sup> Yorks. DOW 12 Jan 1917 aged 23. Son of Robert and Mary Cartmell and brother of Percy (see last entry). He had been born in Egglecliffe but was

living in Yarm when he enlisted at Northallerton in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Yorks in 1916. He had only been in France a short time. Varennes Mil Cem, France – 1 F 47<sup>11</sup>

*[CORDINGLEY, Ernest. Pte 4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 4 Jun 1918. F&F and CORDINGLEY, Harry. Pte Res. Bn KOYLI. Died 14 Mar 1917. Home. Both these brothers are included on Egglecliffe's Memorial and both the CWGC and Soldiers Died show they were living there on their enlistment. They had been born in Yarm and Harry is buried in Yarm Cemetery and that is probably why they were included. They were not listed on the original stones but were included on the church tablet in 1952 and copied onto the new memorial tablets in 1962]*

DANBY, Alfred. L/Cpl 35408 14<sup>th</sup> (Pioneers) N Fus. DOW 3 Feb 1918 aged 26. Son of George Danby, a fruiterer, auctioneer and cemetery superintendent, and Mary Ann his wife both of High St, Yarm. Danby had enlisted in Stockton. St Sever Cem Extn, Rouen, France – P 6 I 3A<sup>12</sup>

DANIEL, William. Pte 6358 2<sup>nd</sup> Yorks (late of). According to CWGC he died 27 Sep 1915 while the Yarm Burial Register says 29 Sep 1915. In any event he was 33 and was the husband of the late Susannah Daniel. His occupation when he died was "Army Pensioner". He was buried in Yarm Cemetery on 1 Oct 1915 – C1 G 8<sup>13</sup>

DAWSON, Joseph. Shoeing Smith 147799 "B" Bty 99<sup>th</sup> RFA. Died of pneumonia 27 Dec 1918 aged 27. Son of Joseph Dawson, labourer and Margaret Ann his wife both of High St, Yarm; brother of Mark (see next entry). Mikra British Cem, Salonika, Greece – 1830 [see also George Campbell who died at the same time and place]<sup>14</sup>

DAWSON, Mark. Pte 119548 Details, RAMC (Egypt Exped Force). Died 11 Sep 1917 following an operation aged 33. Son of Joseph and Margaret Ann Dawson; brother of Joseph (see last entry). He had been born in Yarm and was living there at the time of his enlistment in Stockton. He left a wife, Rose Mary Dawson, and two young children. Alexandria (Hadra) War Mem Cem, Egypt – D 176<sup>15</sup>

DONNELLY, Robert. Pte 16065 10<sup>th</sup> W Yorks att'd (as 53149) 50<sup>th</sup> Bde (17<sup>th</sup> Div) HQ. Died 31 Aug 1918 aged 40. Husband of Ada Emily Donnelly of 5 Carlton Terrace, Yarm who died in 1931 at Stockton & Thornaby Hospital, aged 45. He had been born at Prescott, Lancs and enlisted at Middlesbrough. Wavans Brit Cem, France – A 6<sup>16</sup>

DOUGHTY, John Lancelot. Pte 5870 1/4<sup>th</sup> W Riding. KIA 13 Aug 1916 aged 21. Son of David Doughty, a builder of Comondale House, West St, Yarm and Sarah his wife. He had enlisted at Stokesley while living in Yarm. Thiepval Memorial, France – Pier 6<sup>17</sup>

DOUGHTY, Robert Thomas. Pte 200381 9<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 20 Sep 1917. Born in Yarm and living there when he enlisted in 4<sup>th</sup> Yorks in Aug 1914. He had been wounded in France in 1916 and returned there in 1917. He is included in Egglecliffe's War Memorial but the evidence points to him as being a Yarm man. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium – Panel 52/54<sup>18</sup>

EASBY, John William. Cpl 24379 7<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 17 May 1917. Born in Yarm and living there on his enlistment at Stokesley. Arras Memorial, France – Bay 5<sup>19</sup>

ELCOATE, Thomas Johnson. L/Cpl 27954 2<sup>nd</sup> Yorks. DOW 13 Apr 1917 aged 26. A local Methodist, he was the son of Richard Elcoate, a shopkeeper and of the late Jane Swainson Elcoate, his wife, both of High Street Yarm; husband of Minnie Elcoate, later of 2 Hall Cottages, Wolviston, Stockton. He had been born in Uray Nook and enlisted in Northallerton while living in lodgings in West St, the tenant of David Doughty of Comondale House. Warlincourt Halte Brit Cem, France – 7 F 8 [Soldiers Died says DOW 14 Apr]<sup>20</sup>



ELLIFF, Edward. L/Cpl 8593 1<sup>st</sup> Loyal N Lancs. DOW 18 Sep 1914 aged 31. Son of William Rhodes Elliff, grocer of High St Yarm and Mary his wife. He had enlisted at Ashton under Lyne. La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, France<sup>21</sup>

[*FAWCETT, John. 2/Lt 2<sup>nd</sup> Yorks. KIA 8 May 1918. F&F. Fawcett grew up in Yarm, attended the Grammar School and was later a pupil teacher at the local Council School. However, records show that on enlistment he was living at Spring House, Great Broughton and he is recorded on the Kirkby and Great Broughton Memorial in the Great Broughton Methodist Church.*]

FERGUSON, Frank. Pte 16942 29<sup>th</sup> Coy Labour Corps and formerly Pte 48036 4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. Died 4 Nov 1918. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted in Northallerton. Lille Southern Cem, France – 1 A 27 [Soldiers Died has him formerly in Notts & Derby Regt]<sup>22</sup>

\*GOLDIE, Benjamin James. Pte 26005 5<sup>th</sup> Yorks. DOW 11 May 1917. Born at Eaglescliffe and enlisted at Stockton while living at Yarm. Etaples Mil Cem, France – XVIII M 10A<sup>23</sup>

HANSOM, Eli Oliver Victor. Pte 204098 1/5<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 27 May 1918 aged 21. Son of Richard and Gertrude Hansom of Carlton Terrace and later Harbrons Yard, and 5 Blenavon Court, Yarm. He had enlisted in Stockton. Soissons Memorial, France<sup>24</sup>

HARWOOD, Oliver William. Pte 22505 13<sup>th</sup> Yorks. 13 Apr 1918. Son of Charles Harwood, Millwright of Bentley Wynd. He had been born in Leeds and enlisted in Stockton early in the war while living at Yarm. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium – Panel 4 [the date of death here is from CWGC/Soldiers Died. The Church Memorial gives 9 Apr. The unit went into billets on 13 Apr so it seems more reasonable that he was killed during a heavy gas attack on the 9<sup>th</sup>]<sup>25</sup>

\*HOLT, Robert Bertram. Rfm C/12075 21<sup>st</sup> KRRC. KIA 17 Sep 1916 F&F. Born at Stainton, Yorks and enlisted at Stockton while living at Yarm.<sup>26</sup>

HYLAND, Thomas. Pte M2/119185 884<sup>th</sup> Mech Transport Coy, RASC attd XIXth Corps Heavy Arty. Died of accidental injuries 3 Nov 1918 aged 32. Husband of Gertrude Hyland of Tunbridge House, Yarm who later remarried and became Mrs Champion of Mansfield Villas, Thornaby. He had been born in Portarlinton, Ireland and enlisted in West Hartlepool while living in Yarm. Lijssenthoek Mil Cem, Poperinghe, Belgium – 35 B 12<sup>27</sup>

JOHNSON, Frank. Pte 65175 1<sup>st</sup> N. Fus. KIA 14 Apr 1918 aged 18. Youngest son of Mrs E Johnson of Lord Nelsons Yard, Yarm. He had been born in Stockton and enlisted in Durham in Mar 1918. He had only been in action for eleven days. Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.<sup>28</sup>

JOHNSON, Robert. Pte 4/200241 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 30 Oct 1917. Son of Silvanus Johnson of Dennisons Yard, Yarm, a fellmonger. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted in Yarm. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium – Panel 52/54<sup>29</sup>

[*KEIGHLEY, John Joseph. Pte Labour Corps. Died 30 May 1918. F&F. He was born in Yarm but enlisted in Bishop Auckland and his wife is recorded as living there. He is on the Bishop Auckland Roll of Honour in St Andrews Parish Church*]

\*KENDREW, Arthur. Pte 41472 7<sup>th</sup> Leics. KIA 25 Mar 1918. Born at Craythorne, Yorks and enlisted at Stokesley while living at Yarm. Pozieres Memorial, France – 29/30<sup>30</sup>

MARSTON, Herbert Hildred. L/Cpl 1362 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 5 Sep 1915 aged 24. Husband of Eveline Marston who later remarried and became Mrs Coates of 10 Dalton St, Darlington. He had been born in Yarm and enlisted there in Aug 1914 while still living there. He is recorded on the Preston/Egglescliffe Junction Memorial but it is clear that he was living in Yarm on enlistment. Strand Military Cem, Belgium – p D 8<sup>31</sup>

NESS, William. Pte 28279 7<sup>th</sup> E Yorks and formerly 5721 Yorks Regt. KIA 28 Aug 1918 aged 30. Husband of Mary Ann Ness of Bridge St, Yarm. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted in Darlington in Aug 1914. Warlencourt Brit Cem, France – 7 J 17<sup>32</sup>

*[OVERFIELD, Daniel. Pte 15<sup>th</sup> DLI. KIA 1 Jul 1916. F&F. Although the son of a Yarm family he is recorded on the Preston/Egglescliffe Memorial and Soldiers Died says he was living at the latter place on enlistment. Only one Daniel Overfield fell in the war so there can be no doubt about this.]*

PAGE, John Percival. Pte 200446 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. DOW 10 Apr 1918 aged 21. Percy (as he was familiarly known) was the youngest son of William Henry and Rose Abbey Page of the George and Dragon Hotel, Yarm and before enlisting at the start of the war had been employed in the local Co-operative store. During his military service he had been wounded and also operated on for appendicitis. He had enlisted in Northallerton while living in Yarm. On the Page family, two sons in New Zealand and three from Yarm joined up while a daughter took up nursing in a Newcastle hospital. La Kreule Mil Cem, Hazebrouck, France – I A 12<sup>33</sup>

PEACOCK, John Charles Millard. 2/Lt 1/5<sup>th</sup> DLI. KIA 27 May 1918 aged 38. Son of Sarah Jane Peacock who at the time was postmistress of Yarm and the late John Peacock. He himself lived in a High Street property. He joined the DLI early in the war and was commissioned at the start of 1917, having previously risen to Quartermaster Serjeant. Before enlistment he worked for Stockton Council and was a member of the Parish Council until early 1917 when he resigned because of his war service. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium – Panel 128/131<sup>34</sup>

\*PEACOCK, Robert Abbott. Pte 38879 2<sup>nd</sup> KOYLI. DOW 2 Apr 1918 aged 19 formerly 82539 TR Bn. Born in Yarm and enlisted at Richmond, Yorks. Wimereux Com Cem, France – IX C 9<sup>35</sup>

PINNEGAR, Harry. Cpl 13652 14<sup>th</sup> DLI. DOW 3 Oct 1916. Born in Yarm and was living there on his enlistment at Darlington. Etaples Mil Cem, France – 11 F 18A<sup>36</sup>

PRESTON, Joseph. Pte 200380 1/5<sup>th</sup> DLI. Died 21 Nov 1918. He had enlisted at Stockton while living in Yarm. Niederzwehren Cem, Cassell, Germany – 8 J 10<sup>37</sup>

REED, John Robert. L/Cpl 91194 2<sup>nd</sup> DLI. KIA 9 Aug 1918 aged 18. Son of Mark Reed, millwright and his wife Emma, then of Church Wynd and later of High St, Yarm. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted at Stockton. Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium – Panel 128/131<sup>38</sup>

ROBINSON, John Robert. Pte 1740 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 29 Apr 1915 aged 25. Son of Charles Robinson of 34 Coronation St, Carlin Howe, Yorks; husband of Frances Annie Holmes (formerly Robinson) of 4 Carlton Terrace, Yarm. He had been born in Redcar but was living in Yarm when he enlisted. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium – Panel 33<sup>39</sup>

ROSE, James William. L/Cpl PS/9155 12<sup>th</sup> R Fus. KIA 31 Jul 1917. Son of James Rose, watch and clock maker of High St, Yarm and Emma his wife. He had been born in Yarm and was living there on his enlistment at Middlesbrough in Nov 1915. Ypres Reservoir Cem, Belgium – 10 D 7<sup>40</sup>

SCOTT, Charles. Pte 8252 13<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 22 Mar 1918. Born in West Hartlepool and enlisted there while living in Yarm. He is not recorded on Hartlepool's Memorial. Arras Memorial, France – Bay 5<sup>41</sup>

SHAUGHNESSY, James. Pte 124051 Labour Corps and formerly Pte 3/19791 3<sup>d</sup> KOR Lancs. Died of sunstroke 7 Nov 1918 aged 43. Son of Thomas and Mary Shaughnessy of Yarm. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted at Stockton. Stockton on Tees (Durham Road) Cem, UK – A3 K 20 [Soldiers Died says he was formerly with Leics Regt]<sup>42</sup>

SMITH, Edward. Pte 998 54<sup>th</sup> Aus Inf. DOW 21 Jul 1916. Only son of William Smith, tailor and Annie his wife of High St, Yarm. He was widely respected in the town and had taken a deep interest in the Terriers as well as the Miniature Rifle Club in which he won several trophies. Shortly before the war started he had joined an Australian Liner and was in that country when war was declared. He joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aus Inf and went to Gallipoli where he was wounded in the foot. He recovered from his wounds in Ghezirah Hospital, Cairo and had landed in France just two months before his death. Boulogne Eastern Cem, France – 8 A 130<sup>43</sup>

\*SMITH, Thomas. Pte 11197 2<sup>d</sup> W Riding. KIA 5 May 1915. Born in Yarm and enlisted at Bradford. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium – Panel 20<sup>44</sup>

\*SPRINGTHORPE, Herbert. L/Cpl 6414 2<sup>nd</sup> Lincs. KIA 12 Mar 1915. Born at Whitwell, Rutland and enlisted at Stamford, Lincs while living in Yarm. Rue-Petillon Mil Cem, Fleurbaix, France – III B 4<sup>45</sup>

SUGGETT, Anthony. Pte 8943 1<sup>st</sup> Yorks. Died 31 Oct 1918 probably in the flue epidemic which caused thirty deaths in the unit about that time. He was born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted at Middlesbrough. Cherat New Cem, India – C 51 and Delhi Memorial.<sup>46</sup>

\*TAYLOR, Charles Edwin. Pte 19770 6<sup>th</sup> E Yorks. KIA 12 Sep 1916. Born at Holborn, Middx and enlisted at Stockton from Yarm. Thiepval Memorial, France – Pier 2C<sup>47</sup>

TOPHAM, Charles Henry. 2/Lt 115<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery RGA. DOW 21 Oct 1916 aged 33. Son of John Topham, platelayer of Bridge St, Yarm and Matilda his wife who had both died in 1914; Topham left a wife, Mrs F W Topham and four children and she later moved to 63 Cray Rd, Foots Cray, Kent. He had joined the RGA as a Gunner in 1904 and obtained his commission in Aug 1916.<sup>48</sup>

WALDY, Cuthbert Temple. 2/Lt 2<sup>nd</sup> So Lancs. KIA 20 Oct 1914 aged 23. Youngest son of Arthur Garmondsway Waldy, MA who was Rector of Yarm from 1901 to his own death in 1915. He had been born at Horsley Woodhouse, Derby on 31 Aug 1891 and after attending Marlborough College from 1906 to Christmas 1909 was apprenticed to Messrs Huntley & Palmer at their biscuit factory in Reading. Possessed of great industry and ability and a man of much personal charm, he was highly esteemed by the directors. He was closely involved in the factory Recreation Club, being a good cricketer, a half back in the hockey team and having some interest in football. He promoted the works departmental cricket competition and was also honorary secretary of the cricket club. Waldy was also an officer in the St Johns company of the Church Lads Brigade. Gazetted to the Special Reserve of Officers in Aug 1912 he joined the 3<sup>d</sup> York & Lancs in Aug 1914 before being transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> So Lancs when sent to the front in early Oct. On the 20<sup>th</sup> he had been wounded and a Capt Bagley dressed his wounds and urged him to take more cover. Soon after he was wounded again and Capt Bagley was also wounded and taken to hospital. He was later told that while a Serjeant Holt was binding Waldy's wounds they were both shot dead. After the war the family presented the Parish Church with a carved oak altar in memory of this officer and this was placed in the Chapel in the north eastern corner of the Church, behind the organ. At the time of his

death Waldy lived at 96 London Rd, Reading and it seems that he had only a family and not a personal connection with Yarm. Nevertheless he is not recorded in Reading and so is included here. Le Touret Memorial, France – Panel 23<sup>49</sup>

WALKER, Edward William. Pte 58418 2/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks & Lancs and formerly 3395 of 4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. Son of William Walker, blacksmith and Isabel his wife of Layfield House, Yarm; brother of Harold (see next entry). He enlisted at Northallerton in Jan 1915 while living in Yarm and is apparently incorrectly recorded on Eggescliffe's Memorial. A William Walker is recorded on the Methodist Church Memorial and as the family were Methodist it is assumed this refers to Edward William. Grand Ravine Brit Cem, France – C 1<sup>50</sup>

WALKER, Harold. Pte 3057 1/5<sup>th</sup> DLI. KIA 24 Apr 1915 aged 20. Son of William and Isabel Walker; brother of Edward (see last entry). Before enlisting he was employed by Mr E Smith of Red Hall Farm, Castlelevington. Soldiers Died states that he enlisted at Stockton from "Eggescliffe, Yarm" and he is on Eggescliffe's Memorial. Other evidence suggests he was probably living at Yarm on enlistment in Nov 1914 and in any event his family were local and so he is recorded here. His name is also included on the Methodist War Memorial. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium – Panel 36/38<sup>51</sup>

*[WALLINGER, Richard George. Cpl 4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 24 May 1915 F&F. He is recorded on Eggescliffe's Memorial and was living at Urlay Nook on enlistment. Since only one R Wallinger fell in the war there can be no doubt about this.]*

WARD, Edwin. Pte 27953 7<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 5 Nov 1916. He was born in Guisborough and enlisted in Stockton while living in Yarm. The newspaper refers to a Pte Richard Ward being killed, adding that he was employed by Hird's Skinyard and being of a quiet and affable disposition was much respected. This presumably refers to Edwin because of coincidental dates and the fact that no Richard Ward is identified as being of Yarm. Thiepval Memorial, France – Pier 3<sup>52</sup>

WARD, John Thomas. Pte (late) 49515 Labour Corps and formerly 200383 5<sup>th</sup> DLI. Died 1 Jan 1921 aged 29 as a consequence of having been gassed during the war. He was the son of Mr and Mrs William Ward of Field House Farm, Yarm and was himself a local farmer. He left a wife and one child. Ward was a Methodist. Yarm Cemetery – B3 E 31<sup>53</sup>

WASTELL, Albert. Pte 1500 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 15 Jul 1915 aged 19. A local Methodist, he was the son of Thomas and Annie Wastell of Danby's Yard, Yarm. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted in the town in Aug 1914. For three years prior to the war he had been a local Terrier and before joining up worked at Hird's Skinyard where his bright and cheerful disposition was much respected among his fellow workers. Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium – Panel 33 [The newspaper says he was wounded and died on the 14<sup>th</sup>]<sup>54</sup>

WATSON, James William. Pte 24871 9<sup>th</sup> Yorks. DOW 24 Feb 1917 aged 20. Son of Godfrey Watson a motorman of Church Wynd and later 6 Carlton Terrace, Yarm and Elizabeth Ann his wife; brother of John Charles (see on). He had been born at Galphay near Ripon and according to Soldiers Died enlisted in Stockton while living in Yarmouth. He is not on Yarmouth's Roll and this is probably an error for Yarm. Boulogne Eastern Cem, France – 8 B 117<sup>55</sup>

WATSON, John. Gnr 20106 46<sup>th</sup> Bde RFA. DOW 4 May 1917. He was born at Hutton Rudby and enlisted at Darlington. Bucquoy Road Cem, France – I E 16. [This identification is not certain since no home address is given. The Memorial lists a Gnr John H Watson but there are not John H's in Soldiers Died for the Royal Artillery and the Commission have no record of such a name

either. On balance this man appears to be the right one and certainly he is not on either Darlington's or Hutton Rudby's Roll.]<sup>56</sup>

WATSON, John Charles. Pte 1328 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA while on duty as a look-out 1 Sep 1915 aged 21. Son of Godfrey and Elizabeth Ann Watson; brother of James (see back). The Commission entry for this man has his parents living at 35 Cecil St, Stockton. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted in the town in Aug 1914. A letter from Capt H T Fawcett stated that he had got a bullet just over the eyes and died on the spot. In tendering his heartfelt sympathy the Capt said that "his loss will be as greatly felt out there as at Yarm... He was always cheerful under any circumstances and did his duties well and willingly." He had been in the Terriers for four years and prior to enlisting was an Assistant Signaller at Eaglescliffe. He was a primitive Methodist and a memorial service was held in their Church in May 1916 to commemorate his death and that of Ambrose Wilson (see on). Strand Military Cem, Ploegsteert, Belgium – 9 H 8<sup>57</sup>

WEBSTER, Albert. Pte 30685 1<sup>st</sup> E Yorks and formerly 7<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 22 Oct 1918. He was born in Stokesley and enlisted there while living at Yarm. He is recorded on the Stokesley Memorial, probably because of his close connections with that town. However, it is clear from Soldiers Died that he lived in Yarm on enlistment. Neiderzwehren Cem, Cassel, Germany – 6 G 15<sup>58</sup>

\*WELFORD, Matthias Lyth. Pte 73294 2<sup>nd</sup> DLI KIA 21 Mar 1918. Born at Uglebarnby, Yorks and enlisted at Stockton from Yarm. Arras Memorial, France – Bay 8<sup>59</sup>

WILFORD, Robert. 2/Lt 1/5<sup>th</sup> Yorks attd 13<sup>th</sup> Bn. KIA 23 Nov 1917 aged 23. Fourth son of Robert Levi Wilford, licensee of the Black Bull Hotel, Yarm and Clerk to the Cemetery Committee who had died in 1916 and Jane Eliza his wife. He had been educated at Yarm Grammar School where he won a North Riding Scholarship and entered as a pupil at Middlesbrough High School. He passed junior and senior Cambridge exams, gaining an exemption in the London Matriculation exam. Being successful in winning a training college scholarship he spent two and a half years at University College, Nottingham where he received the Board of Education certificate for Teaching. He passed the Intermediate BA at London University and was reading for the final part when war started (he was posthumously awarded a full BA (war Degree) on 19 Jun 1918). Wilford joined the University OTC in which he remained for a year before being commissioned into the Yorkshire Regiment on 23 Nov 1916. He went to France in Jan 1917. In 1919 his mother presented the Catholic Church in Yarm a beautiful Holy Water Stoup in the form of an angel holding forth the bowl in memory of her son but this no longer survives. Cambrai Memorial, France – Panel 5<sup>60</sup>

[WILKINSON, George Thomas. Pte 2<sup>nd</sup> Yorks. KIA 4 Sep 1918. F&F. The War Graves Commission and Soldiers Died both indicate that this man was born in Crook and enlisted at Stockton while living at Egglecliffe. He is on the Egglecliffe Memorial]

WILSON, Ambrose. Pte 1329 1/4<sup>th</sup> Yorks. KIA 17 Apr 1916. Son of Francis Wilson, a tanner of High St, Yarm and Isobel his wife. He had been born in Yarm and was living there when he enlisted in the town in Aug 1914. A local primitive Methodist, a memorial service was held in their Chapel in May 1916 for him and John Watson (see back). Kemmel Chateau Mil Cem, Belgium – L 71<sup>61</sup>

WILSON, William Henry. Cpl 343793 Labour Corps, formerly 194 DLI. Died of pneumonia 3 Jun 1918 aged 40 in Clipstone Camp Hospital. Eldest son of John Wilson, cabinet maker and upholsterer of Blenavon Cottage, Yarm and the late Elizabeth Wilson, his wife. He had been born in Stockton and enlisted there in Oct 1914 while living in Yarm. Forest Town (St Alban) Chyd, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.<sup>62</sup>

## WORLD WAR TWO 1939-1947

BENCH, Ronald. Pte 4390948 4<sup>th</sup> Green Howards. KIA between 23 May and 24 Sep 1940 (indications being it was May) at Athies les Arras aged 20. Son of Thomas Blench, a chemical process worker of 9 High St, Yarm and Hannah his wife. Before the war he had been employed as a gardener at Kirklevington Grange. Athies Communal Cem Extn, France – 2 B 13 [his brother William, Pte 4389386 also 4<sup>th</sup> Bn was killed about the same time and was buried next to him in grave 14. He was apparently living in Eaglescliffe on enlistment and is recorded on the Preston/Eaglescliffe Junction Memorial]<sup>63</sup>

CASS, Robert Vivian. Serjeant 967387 55<sup>th</sup> Bty 32<sup>nd</sup> Light AA Regt, RA. KIA 15 Feb 1942 aged 25. Son of Fred and Rose Cass; husband of Lydia May Cass. Born in Dewsbury, at the time of his enlistment he lived at Glenross Cottage, Yarm. Pembroke Mil Cem, Malta – 1 1 collective grave 13<sup>64</sup>

CLAPHAM, John Geoffrey. Ord Smm P/JX 245080. Drowned 14 Dec 1941 on HMS *Galatea* when she was torpedoed and sunk some 50km NW of Alexandria, Egypt on her return to that port following an unsuccessful search for an enemy convoy. Youngest son of Robert Harvey Clapham and Mary his wife, of Crofton House, West St, Yarm. He had been involved in many local activities, having been joint secretary of the Cricket Club, a member of the tennis club, a keen member of the Home Guard and a Rugby player for Stockton. In civil life he was a partner with his uncle, John Clapham in J R Clapham & Sons, ropemakers of Stockton. He had left home some twelve months earlier to join a naval training unit. In 1948 a fine oak altar rail was installed in Yarm Church, the work of local craftsman Robert Thompson of Kilburn, in memory of Mary Clapham who had died that year aged 71 and her son John. Portsmouth Naval Memorial – Panel 50 col 2<sup>65</sup>

ELLIFF, William Rhodes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer Merchant Navy. Drowned 30 Mar 1941 in loss of SS *Umona* when she was torpedoed and sunk about 145km SW of Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa aged 26. Before joining the Merchant Marine he had been educated at Yarm Grammar School. Tower Hill Memorial, London – Panel 113<sup>66</sup>

FOX, George Alfred. WOII (Regimental QMS) 4386637 12<sup>th</sup> (10<sup>th</sup> Green Howards) Parachute Regt, AAC. KIA 24 Mar 1945 during crossing of the Rhine aged 33. Before enlisting he lived at 122 High St, Yarm and on 1 Feb 1945 had been awarded the MBE under a communal citation for war services. Reichswald Forest War Cem, Germany – 42 A 7<sup>67</sup>

HEDLEY, Robert. 3<sup>d</sup> Officer Merchant Navy. Drowned 18 Sep 1940 in loss of SS *Magdalena* when she was torpedoed and sunk off the west coast of Ireland aged 29. He was the son of Robert Hedley, auctioneer and Lucy Isabel, his wife. His parents had died in 1933 and 1928 respectively and so he lived with his uncle and aunt, Cllr and Mrs William Hedley of Rose Hill, Yarm. He had been educated at Yarm Grammar School. Tower Hill Memorial, London – Panel 66<sup>68</sup>

HODGSON, William. L/Cpl 7909465 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Dragoon Gds RAC. KIA 7 Feb 1943 aged 27. Son of Joseph and Mary Hodgson of Fairway, Leven Rd, Yarm and before the war had attended Yarm Grammar School. El Alamein Memorial, Egypt – Col 16<sup>69</sup>

HUDSPETH, Joseph Alfred. L/Cpl 6396793 2<sup>nd</sup> Green Howards and formerly R Sussex Regt. Died on active service 4 Dec 1940 aged 37. Son of Mrs Edith Jemma Hudspeth of High St, Yarm and later of Knaresborough. He was born in Sunderland. Delhi War Cem, India – 3 A 8<sup>70</sup>

KEATING, Rowland Keith. Fly Offr (Air Gnr) 76320 608 Sqdn RAF (VR). Missing 30 Jun 1941 aged 31 flying in a Blenheim which, with three others went in search of a dinghy. For the following two days prolonged searches were made for the crew but without success. He was the son of Arthur Oscar and Mary Keating and husband of Edna Keating. He was a native of New Zealand although he had been living in Yarm for some time and after the war his widow returned to New Zealand. To his squadron he was known as "Pinky" and had apparently completed his tour and had taken a desk job when he volunteered to go out on what turned out to be his last mission. He had been mentioned in despatches. Runnymede Memorial, London – Panel 30. [the others were PO Sir Iain Workman MacRobert, Sergeant Henry Hillwood (2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot) and Sergeant Alec Patrick Best (WO/Air Gnr)]<sup>71</sup>

MCELROY, Leonard. L/Cpl 4389390 4<sup>th</sup> Green Howards. Died on active service 29 May 1940 aged 24. Son of Leonard and Ethel McElroy of 4 Blythe Gardens, Worsall Rd, Yarm. Ypres Town Cem Extn, Belgium – 4 A 25<sup>72</sup>

PEIRSON, Charles Harold. Maj 173926 RAOC. KIA 8 Jun 1944 aged 34 (possibly while on the frigate HMS *Lawford* which was bombed and sunk off Courcelles while in use as a HQ ship for Juno Beach and sustained 24 casualties). Son of Michael Peirson a cartman of Silver St, Yarm and husband of Gertrude Peirson of Prospect House, Yarm. He had been head boy of Yarm Council School in 1924 and in civil life was a motor engineer in business in Middlesbrough. He served in the Methodist Church as a local preacher and had been a Special Constable before his commission as 2/Lt in the RAOC on 3 Jan 1941. Bayeaux Memorial, France – Panel 18 Col 3<sup>73</sup>

REES, Philip. Pte 14384571 2/6<sup>th</sup> So Staffs and formerly Gen Service Corps. Died on active service 13 Aug 1944 aged 20. Son of Frederick and Jane Rees of Turton Rd, Yarm. Brovay War Cem, France – 1 C 8<sup>74</sup>

SUDDER, John. Volunteer N Yorks (Yarm) Home Guard. Drowned in River Tees at Yarm 3 Sep 1943 aged 18. Son of John Thomas and Catherine Suddes of Lowlands Farm, Yarm. During a display of river crossing operations carried out by the Home Guard as part of a weeks events on behalf of the Green Howards POW Fund Suddes got the rope hanging from a Bosuns chair wrapped round his feet. He was dragged into the water and as other men fell in at the same time in the confusion he was not missed for five minutes. Two hours of attempted resuscitation failed and he was pronounced dead. The coroners verdict was "accidentally drowned." Yarm Cem – C1 Q 12<sup>75</sup>

TEBBS, Walter David. L/Serjt 872754 1<sup>st</sup> Regt Royal Horse Arty. DOW 3 Jun 1942. Son of Mrs Grace Tebbs of 9 Carlton Terrace, Yarm whose other son, Albert Edward, was reported captured by the Italians. Knightsbridge War Cem, Acroma, Libya – 11 B 5<sup>76</sup>

WALKER, Harold James. Cpl 4395693 6<sup>th</sup> Green Howards. Died on active service 28 Oct 1944 aged 30. Son of Albert Edward and Sarah Mary Walker; husband of Daisy Walker of Church Wynd, Yarm. Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cem, Holland – 8 C 14<sup>77</sup>

WILSTROP, Allan. Sergt (WO/Air Gunner) 1054130 35<sup>th</sup> Sqdn RAF (VR) (Kinloss). KIA 28 Apr 1942 when his Halifax bomber was shot down while trying to bomb the Tirpitz in Trondheim Fjord, Norway. Son of Thomas F Wilstrop of 36 West St, Yarm the local postman and Mary Ellen his wife. He had been educated at Yarm Council and Grammar Schools before starting work in the Weights & Measures Department of the North Riding County Council at Thornaby. Outside work his interests were mainly of a sporting nature. He had enlisted in the RAF in October 1940. Trondheim (Stavre) Cem, Norway – A4 British Plot J 12 [The six other members of his crew: Flt Lt M R M Pools, PO G J P Henry, PO F W G Hill, Sgt H A Booth, Sgt D E Rarity and Sgt Russell are all also buried there]<sup>78</sup>

WOODS, Wilmot. Pte 4466643 1<sup>st</sup> W Yorks and formerly DLI. Died on active service 14 May 1944 aged 31 according to the Commission or aged 34 according to the local press. He was the son of Luke and Priscilla Woods and husband of Kathleen Doris Woods of Kinkora, 76 High St, Yarm by whom he had a son aged two at his fathers death. Woods was a former choir boy in the Parish Church. Mr and Mrs Woods had three other sons, two of whom were in the forces – one in the Merchant Navy and one in the RAF. Imphal War Cem, India – 1 A 20<sup>79</sup>

## KOREAN WAR 1950-1953

PINKNEY, Jack. L/Cpl 22596847 Duke of Wellingtons Regt. KIA during attack on the Hook 29 May 1953 aged 20. Son of Mr and Mrs J Pinkney of 1 Silver St, Yarm and had been educated at Preston on Tees School before starting work at Hird's Skinyard, Yarm. United Nations Cemetery, Tangkok, Korea – 39 11 3438<sup>80</sup>

## SOURCES

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<sup>1</sup> Town Hall War Memorial; Green Howards Records; D&S Times 3/3/00

<sup>2</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 24/4/1916; Register of Electors 1913

<sup>3</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died, D&S Times 12/9/14, 1/5/15, 21/8/15, 28/8/15; Yarm Methodist Church Memorial; unidentified cutting N. Echo c8/1915? in possession of Mr M Race of Yarm

<sup>4</sup> CWGC; Officers Died; Yarm Church personal memorial; Register of Electors 1913; D&S Times 5/1/18 (x2); Law Notes 1918 p63; Stockton Roll of Honour; Uppingham School Register 8<sup>th</sup> ed pp22, 198

<sup>5</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died

<sup>6</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died

<sup>7</sup> CWGC; Officers Died; Yarm Parish Magazine Dec 1919; Army List 1914; Bond of Sacrifice; Uppingham School Roll 8<sup>th</sup> ed; Ramsey/Barker: The Parish Church of... Yarm

<sup>8</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 12/9/14, 26/1/18

<sup>9</sup> CWGC; D&S Times 11/1/19; Wards Directory 1913; PC Minutes 8/1/19

<sup>10</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Wards Directory 1913

<sup>11</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 27/1/17

<sup>12</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Wards Directory 1913

<sup>13</sup> CWGC; Bur entry 847 in the Yarm Burial Register

<sup>14</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1913; Wards Directory 1913

<sup>15</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 22/9/17

<sup>16</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Burial Register for Yarm



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- <sup>17</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 26/8/16; Wards Directory 1913
- <sup>18</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 12/9/14; Brief Account of Egglecliffe Men who Fought... p6
- <sup>19</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>20</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Yarm Methodist Church Memorial; Register of Electors 1913; Wards Directory 1913
- <sup>21</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Wards Directory 1913; Register of Electors 1913
- <sup>22</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>23</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>24</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Register of Electors 1913
- <sup>25</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Parish Church Memorial; Wards Directory 1913; D&S Times 27/4/18
- <sup>26</sup> Soldiers Died. His name does not appear in CWGC
- <sup>27</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 23/11/18
- <sup>28</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 18/5/18
- <sup>29</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 10/11/17; Register of electors 1913; Yarm Burial Register
- <sup>30</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>31</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 12/9/14
- <sup>32</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 12/9/14; Wards Directory 1913
- <sup>33</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 29/7/16; 27/4/18; Yarm Burial Register
- <sup>34</sup> CWGC; Officers Died; D&S Times 19/9/14, 16/2/17, Jun 18; Wards Directory 1913; Register of Electors 1913
- <sup>35</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>36</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>37</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>38</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 24/8/18; Wards Directory 1913
- <sup>39</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>40</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Kellys Directory 1913
- <sup>41</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>42</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>43</sup> CWGC; D&S Times 4/9/15, 5/8/16
- <sup>44</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>45</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>46</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Wylley: Green Howards
- <sup>47</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died

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- <sup>48</sup> CWGC; Officers Died; D&S Times 28/10/16; Wards Directory 1913; Yarm Burial Register
- <sup>49</sup> CWGC; Officers Died; D&S Times 19/12/14; Reading Standard 28/11/14; Bond of Sacrifice vol 1; Ramsey/Barker: The Parish Church...; Marlborough College Register 1843-1909 p718
- <sup>50</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 26/10/18; Methodist Church Memorial; Brief Account of Eggescliffe Men who fought...
- <sup>51</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 8/5/15; Methodist Church Memorial; Brief Account of Eggescliffe men who fought...
- <sup>52</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 25/11/16
- <sup>53</sup> CWGC; Methodist Church Memorial; Yarm Burial Register – 1014; D&S Times 13/11/15, 8/1/21; Register of Electors 1913
- <sup>54</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Methodist Church Memorial; D&S Times 12/9/14, 24/7/15
- <sup>55</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 24/2/17,
- <sup>56</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>57</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 12/9/14, 11/9/15, 27/5/16
- <sup>58</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Stokesley Memorial
- <sup>59</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died
- <sup>60</sup> CWGC; Officers Died; D&S Times 8/12/17, 8'11'19; Certificate of Commission; London Univ Records; Kellys Directory 1913; Yarm Burial Register
- <sup>61</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; Methodist Church Memorial; D&S Times 12/9/14, 27/5/16; Wards Directory 1913
- <sup>62</sup> CWGC; Soldiers Died; D&S Times 8/6/18; Kellys Directory 1913
- <sup>63</sup> CWGC; D&S Times 11/1/41; Wards Directory 1938
- <sup>64</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938
- <sup>65</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938; D&S Times 3/1/42; Wards Directory 1938; Ramsey/Barker: Yarm Parish Church. Kemp, P: The Admiralty Regrets... 162
- <sup>66</sup> CWGC; British Vessels Lost at Sea 1939/45; Yarm Grammar School Roll
- <sup>67</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938; London Gazette 36917 1/2/45 pp670/73
- <sup>68</sup> CWGC; D&S Times 5/10/40; Wards Directory 1938; Yarm Grammar School roll; British Vessels Lost at Sea 1939/45; Yarm Burial Register
- <sup>69</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938; Yarm Grammar School Roll
- <sup>70</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938, Army Roll of Honour
- <sup>71</sup> CWGC; Church Papers; Operations Record Book 608 Sqdn 1&2/7/41; interview with late Mr J Menhennet of 608 Sqdn
- <sup>72</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938, 1945
- <sup>73</sup> CWGC; D&S Times 22/6/40, 4/1/41, 3/10/42, 24/6/44; Register of Electors 1938; Wards Directory 1938; British Vessels lost at sea 1939/45
- <sup>74</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938, 1945

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<sup>75</sup> D&S Times 11/9/43; Yarm Burial Register 1746; Register of Electors 1938

<sup>76</sup> CWGC; D&S Times 8/8/42; Register of electors 1938

<sup>77</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938

<sup>78</sup> CWGC; D&S Times 28/11/42; Register of Electors 1938; Yarm Grammar School Roll; Bomber Command War Diaries; Bomber Command Losses of the Second World War

<sup>79</sup> CWGC; Register of Electors 1938; Wards Directory 1938; D&S Times 24/6/44

<sup>80</sup> Army Records Centre; Evening Gazette 4/6/53, 11/6/53; Carew: Korea