

“LISTEN TO OUR STORIES”

**Remembering World War One
at Undercliffe Cemetery
Bradford**



**Mrs Priscilla Barraclough—Sucrerie Military Cemetery,
Colincamps, Somme, France 1919
at the graveside of her son Willie**

INTRODUCTION

As part of the centenary of the start of **World War 1**, 4 August 1914, Undercliffe Cemetery Charity has come together with relatives and partner organisations to tell the stories of local people who served. This Booklet (which is the basis of a themed tour of the Cemetery) features 23 people who lived through the period and made decisions that radically changed the course of their lives. Everyone featured has a direct link to Undercliffe Cemetery and many were young men who lived or worked in the streets and communities around the cemetery.

Our project “**Listen to Our Stories—thinking about WW1 at Undercliffe**” has two key aims: to record, for future generations, the stories and experiences of those who were involved; and to make these available for today’s young people so that the major issues thrown up by such a momentous event can be explored.

Key Text: *Bradford Pals*, David Raw, 2006, Pen & Sword Books

1. THE BARRACLOUGH BROTHERS

The Barraclough family plot at Undercliffe Cemetery remembers three brothers who fought in WW1. The brothers lived at the family home 25 Fitzroy Road with their parents George and Priscilla and attended Barkerend Primary School. After leaving school Willie worked at Firths Carpet manufacturing mill at Bailiff Bridge.

Private Willie Barraclough was killed on Easter Monday 1916 aged just 21 years. The family has a valued photo postcard of Willie (right) in uniform with the poignant hand written message:

“Pte W. Barraclough No. 123/18th West Yorks (2nd Bradford Pals). Killed in action April 24 1916. Buried at Sucriere Military Cemetery, Colincamps, Somme, France.” It was said at his funeral that he was the first of the Bradford Pals to die in battle.

Willie is also remembered in the Memorial Garden built by Firths for employees who gave their lives in WW1.

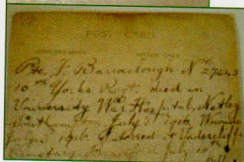
Private Fred Barraclough (left) who enlisted with the **10th West Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)** was given leave to attend his brother’s remembrance service. Sadly, only three months later in July 1916 Fred died at University War Hospital, Southampton, of wounds received in the Battle of the Somme. He was 26 years old. Fred is buried in the family grave at **Undercliffe—A 63 Consecrated**.

The third brother Charles also fought with the Green Howards and survived the war. He returned to Hipperholme (later living in Wyke) and resumed his job as a journeyman cooper with a local brewery.

(His son, also called Charles fought in WW2 and was taken prisoner on the bridge at Arnhem but survived to the age of 87.)

A fourth brother Tom was not allowed to enlist because the family already had three sons serving.

We are grateful to Mrs Gladys Fieldhouse for information and photographs.





2. PRIVATE THOMAS LINGARD

Thomas served in the **16th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (First Bradford Pals)**. He was among the first to volunteer. The

son of John and Hannah Lingard, Thomas lived at the family home, 16 Undercliffe Old Road. His father managed a drapers business with the whole family, including Thomas's two brothers and four sisters, working there. Thomas was educated at Hanson School, which in 1914, was situated on Byron Street, just off Barkerend Road. The First Pals went to Egypt on 22 December 1915. Later transferred to France, Thomas was killed in action at Basin Wood on the Somme, 1 July 1916 aged 21 years. He is remembered on the **Thiepval Memorial to the Missing** (right, CWGC) which records the names of 73,357 soldiers missing in action between July 1916—20 March 1918 and on the family grave at **Undercliffe, B 436 Unconsecrated Section. (AH & RH)**



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT—POETRY AND WWI

Starting point: the Latin inscription “Dulce et Decorum Est Pro Patria Mori” found on the Scott grave was written in 23 BC by Roman poet Horace. What is the key emotion the writer is trying to evoke? How does Wilfred Owen’s use of it differ in his poem (written 1917-18) “Dulce et Decorum Est”? See www.warpoetry.co.uk

Siegfried Sassoon received the Military Cross for bravery on the Western Front yet his poetry satirises the “patriotism” and “jingoism” of the political leaders of the period. What is he trying to tell us?

Read the extraordinary document about the war that Sassoon wrote in July 1917, later found on a train to Preston. Why would his superiors say “...it was written when he was a lunatic...”?

See www.undercliffcemetary.co.uk

3. PRIVATE PHILLIP KEIGHLEY

The Keighley family moved from Bradford to Esholt when Phillip was a child. They lived at Holme House, a detached residence within an acre of grounds on Chapel Lane in the village. His father Fred worked in the textile industry whilst his mother Lucy-Ann was a Magistrate. The family were quite wealthy employing two maids and a gardener.

Phillip was educated at Bradford Grammar School. He was an enthusiastic sportsman and played Rugby Union for Baildon. Phillip enlisted as a volunteer at Belle Vue Barracks, Manningham Lane, Bradford in 1914. He served in the **6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own)**. Phillip was wounded in the 2nd Offensive at Ypres and died on Christmas Eve 1915. He is buried at Etaples and remembered at the War Memorial Institute, Esholt and the family memorial at **Undercliffe, E 475/6 Unconsecrated Section. (AB)**



4. CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION IN BRITAIN

The term "Conscientious Objector" refers to a person who refuses to participate in armed conflict on the grounds that they believe it is wrong to harm or kill their fellow man. In WW1 COs were known as 'Conchies' and records indicate there were c16,000 in Britain. The Quakers have throughout recent history been associated with pacifism and a large number of COs in the Great War claimed exemption on the grounds of their religion. In Bradford there were 279 known COs, with at least 42 claiming Quaker affiliation. Religion was not the only motivation for claiming CO exemption. In Bradford, at least twelve were socialist and/or associated with the Independent Labour Party. They believed that this was a capitalist war and refused to fight their fellow working man, regardless of nationality, as the workers struggle was inherently international. Other reasons included moral reasoning, pacifism, anarchism and nationality.



There were also differing levels of conscientious objection. Many who refused to fight would instead join the Non-Combatant Corps. This was a section of the army that undertook work which would contribute towards the war effort without actually fighting. Others would join the Royal Army Medical Corps or the Friends Ambulance Unit. Some COs who refused to participate in any form of war related activity were known as "Absolutists". 133 Bradford COs were imprisoned at some point during the war with many being sent to Dartmoor and Wormwood Scrubs. *(above left Quakers graves at Undercliffe)*

THE BURROWS BROTHERS, Arthur and Harry are buried in the Quaker Section at **Undercliffe D 147 Unconsecrated**. The Burrows family were Quakers, who owned a rag merchant business in Bradford before the war, and consisted of five brothers and two sisters. When WWI broke out in 1914, Harry and Arthur did not join up. When they were conscripted in 1916 under the Military Service Act, they both refused to fight and became COs on the grounds that their religion was against the harming or killing of other men. However, their older brother Fred was a career soldier; he had joined the army in 1909. It is a fascinating story of how brothers can choose such contrasting paths. Harry and Arthur were sent to the Northern Non-Combatant Corps. As they were both Absolutists their refusal meant they were sentenced to hard labour and they were imprisoned in numerous jails across the country.

(See also stop 13 on the Tour)



Conscientious Objection was recognized by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1995 which states that members of the armed service should not be excluded from the right to claim exemption on conscientious grounds. This was not the case for the COs of WW1.



**It is important that COs are remembered
for their bravery in saying "No!"**

Conscientious Objectors: Questions for Students to Consider

- Do you think COs were cowardly or courageous?
- Was it brave to say 'No!' when so many people said 'Yes!'?
- How are COs remembered now?
- Has this changed over time?

All CO research Shannen Lang, The Peace Museum

Photo of Burrows Grave – The Peace Museum



THE PEACE MUSEUM

Further information—Stories in Stone at

www.choicesthenandnow.co.uk

www.peacemuseum.org.uk

5. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES EDWARD SCOTT

The sixth son of Walter and Jessie Scott, and one of 13 children, Charles was born at Oakleigh, 23 Oak Lane, Bradford on 28 July 1867. He was 47 years old when The Great War began, worked as a solicitor in the city and lived at 19 Wilmer Drive, Heaton, Bradford.

Charles enlisted with the **1/6th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment** which was stationed in Bradford, and was involved on the front line in the Battle of the Somme. Its regimental history records that Lt-Col Scott had assumed command of his battalion in the Thiepval campaign on 1 July 1916, during a period of intense enemy activity. This testimony states that



“Crisis followed crisis, and the heaviest responsibilities were laid on the Battalion Commander. But Col. Scott was equal to the emergency. He added greatly to his reputation for thoroughness and unselfishness. It can be said with absolute sincerity that he thought first of the comfort of his men, and last of himself.”

While on a tour of duty round the line of his men on 24 July 1916 he was mortally wounded.

“As the Colonel was being carried down on a stretcher men took off their helmets and muttered sincere words of sympathy, and felt a keen sense of personal loss...Almost the only words he uttered as he was carried past Battalion HQ were words of anxiety as to the fate of the Battalion.”

He died at Camiers, France, 9 August 1916 and was buried Etaples Military Cemetery. He is also remembered on the family monument at **Undercliffe—D 26 Unconsecrated Section. (JJ)**

See *History of the 1/6th Bn West Yorkshire Regt.*, Chapter 6 for a full account of the Thiepval campaign.



Scott Motorcycles in the First World War

In 1914 Alfred Angas Scott, brother of Charles, patented a specially designed military motorcycle and sidecar combination, which he called the 'Gun-Carrier'. About 200 Scott machine-gun combinations were supplied to the War Department early in



WWI. Unfortunately they suffered engine damage through freezing in cold weather and were not powerful enough to withstand the demands of use in a shattered wartime landscape.

Scott learned from this experience and designed a special vehicle to deal with the demands of military service. His three-wheeled 'Guncar' had wheels arranged in a similar way to that of a combination – the right ones in line, with another offset to the left. A two-cylinder two-stroke engine

6. LANCE CORPORAL HENRY HORSMAN



Henry was born 2 December 1887 and lived at the family home at 51 Sydenham Place, off Otley Road, Undercliffe.

Following school he became a fitter by trade which would have involved serving an apprenticeship probably at an engineering works in the city. Although we don't have the date, like so many people seeking a better life, Henry emigrated to Canada prior to the outbreak of war. On 10 June 1915 aged 28, less than a year after the outbreak of war, Henry volunteered with the **Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force (COEF)**. Fifty percent of all those who enlisted in the COEF

were British expatriates like Henry. He served in the highly prestigious **42nd Bn Royal Highlanders of Canada Regiment** which had formal links with the Scottish Regiment—The Black Watch. The Regiment was posted to England in September 1915 and then immediately on to France. It is safe to assume that Henry was a good soldier as he was quickly promoted to Lance Corporal.

On 2 June 1916 the Battle of Mount Sorrel started on the southern tip of the Ypres Salient. The German Army launched a huge attack to secure this last remaining area of vitally important high ground still in British hands. The manoeuvre was also a diversionary tactic to lure Allied troops away from the area of the River Somme where an attack on them was expected. The German attack of 2 June was a major success also capturing adjoining Sanctuary Wood and Hill 62. Henry lost his life that day aged 28 years.

The COEF played a vital part in some of the key conflicts of WWI such as the **Arras Campaign and Vimy Ridge** but during this period suffered 8,000 casualties. Henry's body was never recovered and he is remembered on the **Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres** (pictured right) and on the family grave at **Undercliffe – H 180 Unconsecrated Section. (AT&NM)**





sat between the wheels on the right side of the driver. As with the combination, the passenger acted as the machine-gunner, the gun being mounted ahead of him, on the left side of the vehicle.



Prototypes of this extraordinary car were offered to the War Department, but after a few trials by the army no further interest was shown. Scott, however, believed in his design, and even before the end of the war he was preparing to build a civilian example – the 'Sociable'. Only a few of these were built in a factory in Bradford Scott prepared especially to manufacture them. One of these very rare vehicles is on display at Bradford Industrial Museum.

Text and Photographs Graeme Rimer.

www.scottownersclub.org

7. SERGEANT ERNEST BREAR

Son of Robinson and Ellen Brear, Ernest had two younger sisters Mary and Jessie and a much younger brother, Edward. All the family worked in textile mills.

Ernest was born in Bradford in 1880 and grew up in Wilsden. He enlisted into the regular army in Keighley prior to the Great War and was a cook in the **15th Kings Hussars**, later being promoted to Sergeant.

Ernest married Ethel in June 1914 and they lived at Totterdown in Bristol.



At the outbreak of war his battalion was recalled from India, part of the seven divisions of the **British Expeditionary Force** rushed to France at the outbreak of hostilities to support the left flank of the French Army.

After the Kaiser's withering comment about '*General French's contemptible little army*' these soldiers self-deprecatingly called themselves the '**Old Contemptibles**'. Two months fighting a much larger and impressive German Army, including the battle at **Mons**, had left the Old Contemptibles considerably depleted. However, they mustered every last cook, messenger, driver and waiter to fight a desperate rear-guard action in an attempt to prevent the German Army from rolling over Flanders to the Belgian coast; a battle that was ultimately successful for the Allies and lasted from 19 October to 22 November 1914. It became known as the **Battle of Nonne-Bosschen – The First Battle of Ypres.**

Ernest was severely wounded in this battle and was evacuated to hospital in Glasgow, where his pregnant wife Ethel travelled to be with him. He died of wounds on 17 November 1914, aged 34, and was buried in **Undercliffe Cemetery M 538 Unconsecrated**. His daughter, May, was born five months later. *We are grateful to Jane Callaghan for text and photograph.*

8. CORPORAL CHARLES NORRIS COX

Charles was born in Bow, London on 4 January 1887. His father, Thomas J Cox was a Methodist Minister and as such the family moved to a new community every three years in accordance with Methodist tradition. In 1899 the family moved to Harrogate and Charles spent two years at Ashville College, an Independent Methodist School. On 9 November 1903 Charles enlisted into the **2nd Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derby Regiment** at Lichfield and served a career in the Infantry overseas for twelve years.



Eventually he was posted to the Western Front as part of the **British Expeditionary Force** where he was wounded in action and discharged on 23 July 1915. After recuperation Charles joined the Royal Air Force as an Air Mechanic on 15 July 1917 and his application records that he bore a scar on his right thigh from his previous wound. His last known posting was at the Airship Experimental Station, Pulham, Norfolk during 1918.

Charles died on 4 November 1918 in hospital in Norwich, only days before the war ended, of wounds received in action. On a very poignant note Charles was buried in the family plot at **Undercliffe, H 555 Unconsecrated** on Armistice Day. His inscription reads "*A Good Soldier of the King*".

Information and photograph Nick Jackson.

9. PRIVATE HARRY HALL



Harry Hall lived at 26 Hustler Street, Undercliffe, opposite the Undercliffe Lane entrance to the Cemetery. Although some of the street remains, number 26, which stood behind where Carlton Bolling Design and Construction building is now, was demolished.

Harry was a regular army soldier rather than a volunteer. He fought with **7th Bn. Cheshire Regiment** at Gallipoli in 1915 before moving on to Egypt and Palestine. He fought in the Battles of Gaza, the capture of Jerusalem and Beersheba - made famous by Lawrence of Arabia who fought there at the same time (see *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*,

1922, T.E. Lawrence).

Harry sailed for France on 31 May 1918, joining the **34th Division** on 1 July in the battles of Soissonais and Ourcq at the height of the German Spring Offensive. America's late but substantial commitment to the Allied cause led the Germans towards a final push to victory, ironically, over much the same ground where the war started in 1914. The German Offensive was a failure. **The number of casualties on all sides between 13 July 1918 - 2 August 1918 makes harrowing reading: French 95,000; British 13,000; American 12,000; German 168,000.**(picture above left, commons.wikimedia.org, Cheshire Regt trench Somme 1916)

Harry was killed in action on 19 July 1918. A short obituary from the Bradford Weekly Telegraph of 30 August 1918 notes that Harry was "*Only in France a month...he was killed whilst carrying his wounded company commander back to a dressing station*". He is remembered on the family grave at **Undercliffe— H 577 Unconsecrated**. Sadly, Harry's wife died 15 November 1918, only four days after the Armistice. (AT)

10. 2nd LIEUTENANT THOMAS ELSWORTH ARMISTEAD

Thomas was born on 12 February 1895 in Bingley. His father Richard was a prominent civil engineer and the family later moved to Ilkley. Thomas was educated at Ripon Grammar School and then at Lancing College, Hove from January 1909 to July 1913, studying to be an architect. A keen sportsman he was in the football team 1911/12, a member of the swimming team in 1913 and also played for Ilkley Rugby Football Club.



He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the **6th Bn West Yorkshire Regiment** on 10 September 1914 and while in charge of a Company on 1 August 1916, promoted to Temporary Captain. In the King's New Year's Honours List of January 1917 Thomas was awarded the **Military Cross** (pictured below left). The Lancing College War Memorial website has an obituary (with photo above right) that includes the following dramatic account, taken from the **War Diary**, of the battle he fought in:

"At 2.10 am on the morning of the 3 May 1917 the men of the 2/6th Battalion met the guides who were to lead them into the front line trenches for an attack that morning. The task, in conjunction with other battalions from their brigade was the attack on a section of the Hindenburg Line including capture of the village of Bullecourt, the capture of Hendecourt and the formation of a defensive flank from Hendecourt to the Hindenburg Line.

...At 3.30am the German artillery put down a heavy barrage across No Mans Land which gradually spread down the line and at 3.45am the British artillery commenced their bombardment of the line to be attacked with the troops moving forward at the same time. The West Yorks advanced in four waves but soon lost direction due to the smoke from the barrage and were hampered by the hail of rifle and machine gun bullets. On the right of the attack A Company attempted to correct their direction but very few of them made the enemy wire and those that managed to get into the trench were killed or captured by a German counterattack...C Company, on the left, were more successful and occupied a trench in front of Bullecourt but were counter attacked, ran out of bombs and were forced to withdraw. D Company managed to get as far as the village church but as their path of retreat was cut off, little information is known as to their fate. At the end of the attack the roughly 100 survivors fell back to their original positions."



Thomas was killed in action in this campaign on 3 May 1917, aged 22. He is remembered on the **Arras Memorial** and on the family grave at **Undercliffe—G123 Unconsecrated.**

Research Jean Robinson.



11. PRIVATE ALBERT MUNZ

Although born in Bradford, Albert's parents, Louis and Caroline Munz, were German nationals who came to England at the end of the 19th C. They ran a pork butcher's shop at 152 Otley Road, near Undercliffe for many years.

The family name and the words in capital letters on this memorial at once indicate an association with Germany. The ancient origin of the surname Munz means 'moneyer' or minter, one who works in the production of coins, while the literal translation of Auf Wiedersehen is 'until we meet again'.



In 1916, Army Orders established two new battalions in the Middlesex Regiment comprising recruits who were British citizens, but the offspring of immigrants or 'enemy aliens' from nations with whom Britain was at war. These were, rather cruelly, known by some as 'The Kaiser's Own'. Albert served in the **31st Middlesex Regiment, 3rd Infantry Labour Company** – one of a number of companies subordinate to the regiment – which went to France in March 1917. (*regimental badge below left*)

One can only speculate on young Albert's feelings (and those of his family) during the First World War. Clearly he saw his allegiance to Britain, and was prepared to enlist in an army that was fighting his parents' homeland, and knowing also that he would be treated differently from his fellow soldiers. His sacrifice, therefore, is all the more poignant.

The family business appears to have narrowly avoided the revenge attacks inflicted on many German businesses in England following the sinking of the RMS Lusitania by a German U-boat on 7 May 1915 with the loss of 1,198 innocent lives.



Albert was killed in action on the Western Front in France on 16 February 1918, aged 19 years and buried in the **Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery**, Belgium alongside 9,900 members of the Commonwealth Forces. Almost all were identified because they were casualties who died while being treated at local medical facilities. Albert is remembered on the family monument at **Undercliffe G 266 Consecrated** (*photo above right John Norris*). (JJ)

GERMAN INFLUENCES IN BRADFORD

Bradford had strong commercial associations with Germany through the textile trade which was firmly established by the middle of the 19thC. Indeed, 'Little Germany' was named in recognition of the numbers of large German merchant houses that were built there. Many individuals of German descent contributed significantly to the social, political, and cultural life of the town as doctors; as councillors and aldermen; and as artists, writers, and composers.

One of the most famous was Sir Jacob Behrens who founded the Bradford Chamber of Commerce in 1851, and is buried in an elaborate listed

memorial on the main promenade in Undercliffe Cemetery.

The advent of war brought to an immediate stop all trade links with Germany, the effect being felt acutely in Bradford's textile industry. Ironically the loss of the German market was made good by the switch to mass production of uniforms for service personnel.

The outbreak of war had a significant impact on the local German community. In accordance with the Aliens Restrictions Act (hastily introduced on 5 August) all non-naturalised Germans were quickly arrested and imprisoned. On 20 August 1914, the Bradford Daily Telegraph stated that a much larger than expected number of people with affiliations to Germany and Austria had been registered as aliens, and that *'many of these occupy important positions in our commercial life and may be regarded as friendly.'* According to the newspaper, several Bradfordians of German descent were anxious to prove their loyalty to Britain through acts of compassion.

Anti-German riots occurred around the country on five notable occasions during the war, although Bradford, which had long assimilated immigrants, remained largely dispassionate, as will be seen from the reference to Albert Munz. Major disturbances perpetrated upon German shop keepers occurred in Keighley in August 1914 and were condemned by the magistracy as 'cowardly and un-English'. *Research John Jackson*

12. CAPTAIN CLAUD GIFFARD JEFFREY

Claud was born on 13 April 1880 and his family lived at Oak Mount in Manningham. His father Herbert James Jeffrey was a solicitor in the city. Claud was educated at Bradford Grammar School and later at Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, perhaps suggesting an early career intention. His biography in the Roll of Honour there notes that *"he was a keen all round sportsman enjoying athletics, polo and steeple chasing."* However, at the age of 19 he joined the **Volunteer Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment** and in 1900 went to

South Africa, serving in the Boer War 1900-02 and taking part in the march from Bloemfontein to Pretoria. Between 1912-14 he was seconded to the Egyptian Army and was posted to Belgium with the 2nd Bn in October 1914. Whilst leading a party of volunteers to repel an attack by a large enemy force near Becelaire on 22 October (mentioned in Despatches) he was wounded in the groin. He died in hospital near Ypres two days later on 24 October, aged 34, and was buried in **Ypres Town Cemetery** (grave pictured left). An officer who was with him in hospital said *"he was one of the most gallant of men..popular with all officers and beloved by his men..their first question was "How is Captain Jeffrey?"* He is remembered on the family grave at **Undercliffe—H138-9 Consecrated Section. (AH & NM)**



13. AMOS ARTHUR BIRKBY

Amos was born 8 March 1893. He was the eldest son of Harry and Francis Birkby who had ten children. The family lived in Undercliffe and in 1916 he was living with his parents in Wilfred Street, off Otley Road and had started work at a timber merchants as a junior clerk.

Amos was a Methodist Lay Preacher at Eastbrook Hall and when WW1 broke out he refused to fight and became a Conscientious Objector.



At a local tribunal Amos requested to join the Royal Army Medical Corps and appeared to have been accepted as suitable for this Non-Combatant Corps. However, there was only a limited number of places available and it is not known whether he was called upon to serve.

In 1917 he was tried by District Court Marshall for disobeying "a lawful order" and sentenced to 112 days imprisonment in Wormwood Scrubs. He was then transferred to the newly opened Princetown Work Centre, Dartmoor and became a member of the road gang. He was later sent to South Wales where he worked for a timber merchant. In 1918 Amos married Esther Hannah Pearce in Llandovery, settled in Wales and established his own timber business. The business collapsed, however, when the General Strike of 1926 caused a massive decline in the market for pit props. Amos moved back to his roots in Bradford in 1928 but could not get a steady job. Throughout his life Amos found it difficult to find work and his daughter writes,

"Amos Arthur Birkby remained unemployed for so long because he did not fight for his country ...He had applied for numerous jobs over the years but this was held against him. His motivation for being a 'Conchie' was undoubtedly religious."

Amos died in 1951 on his 58th birthday and is remembered on the family grave at **Undercliffe—H 200 Consecrated Section.**

Information and photograph courtesy of Mrs Avril Ravenscroft.

WW1 AND WAYS OF REMEMBERING

After the war many people wanted to find a way to remember a loved one who had given their life. Many different ways were found to remember including chapels, diaries, books, poetry, rolls of honour, honour boards in schools and colleges, village memorial fountains. Objects, artworks and artefacts of all kinds have been made as a way of remembering someone special. A good example of this is the silver wafer box (*picture right*) specially commissioned by George Ambler's sister Mabel and given to York Minster in 1926. York Minster has a "regimental chapel" to remember the West Yorkshire Regiment.

See www.undercliffcemetary.co.uk
for a Factsheet on Ways of Remembering

14. LIEUTENANT GEORGE AMBLER

George Ambler was the fourth of six children of John Ambler, J.P. and his second wife Edith Alice Gates. He was born at Heaton Mount, Manningham, an opulent Italianate mansion, now the University of Bradford's School of Management and Executive Education Centre.

George was the great grandson of Jeremiah Ambler who, in 1789, was among the first to establish a local textile business eventually specialising in mohair and worsted manufacture. During WW1 the company produced khaki uniform cloth. The firm of Jeremiah Ambler and Sons was an 'immense industry' of which it was said that *'there are few industrial establishments in Yorkshire of greater magnitude than the Midland Mills'* - a reference to the huge premises on Valley Road, Bradford of which only a portion, a gutted derelict shell, remains today awaiting redevelopment.

George was educated at Roscoe's Preparatory School, Harrogate; Harrow School; and Pembroke College, Cambridge, but suspended his academic career when in January 1915 he obtained a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the **2/6th Bn West Yorkshire Regiment**. He was promoted to Lieutenant in July 1917.

From January 1917 he served with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders but was invalided home following a wound in the arm sustained in March 1917 at the fortress village of Beaumont-Hamel, just behind the German lines. He rejoined his battalion in May 1917 and on 3 July he was severely wounded in action at Loos and admitted to the Third London General Hospital, Wandsworth.

This huge establishment was capable of accommodating 2,000 men. By late 1917, of the 40,000 men who had been admitted since the beginning of the war only 270 had died. Sadly, that figure included George whose death occurred on 3 August 1917. The **Hospital report to the War Office states:** "*Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of Head & Right Eye*".

A few interesting footnotes complete the story. The Bradford Cemetery Company Ltd (the owners of Undercliffe Cemetery) although not insolvent, went into voluntary liquidation on 3 May 1976. At that time the chairman of the enterprise was John Kenneth Ambler, a distant relative of George. In 1964, Mr Ambler married Princess Margaretha of Sweden, and in 1973 his brother-in-law succeeded to the Swedish throne as King Carl XVI on the death of his grandfather. George is buried in the family vault at **Undercliffe—H 796 Consecrated.**

(RH, JJ & NM)



Information and photo <https://archive.org/details/harrowmemorials>
Wafer box info and photo www.mylearning.org/york-minister
Further information: *The Ambler Family*, Louis Ambler, 1924 .

15. 2nd LIEUTENANT GODFREY HAROLD AVERDIECK

Godfrey was born on 10 October 1884 and baptised at St Jude's Church, Manningham. His parents George Herman & Emma Averdieck were naturalised Germans and owned a prosperous textile business in Bradford, with a branch in Manchester, exporting cotton and worsted products. The family originally lived in Rawdon, later moving to 10 Blenheim Mount, Manningham. Godfrey had two younger brothers and two younger sisters. He was educated at a boarding school in Somerset and then attended Charterhouse in Surrey 1898-1902. He had a good appreciation of classical music and literature. On leaving school he entered the family firm, Kessler and Company Limited and proved to be a successful director.

Godfrey enlisted with the **16th Bn Kings Royal Rifles Corps** in May 1915, and was posted to France where he was killed in action on 11 March 1916 aged 31. His obituary in the Harrogate Herald 22 March 1916 notes that he "*volunteered because he considered it his duty to do so.*"

A letter from his commanding officer, Major A D Cooban, to his parents reads:

"...Lieutenant Averdieck was killed by a stray bullet, whilst going up one of the communication trenches to the front line firing trenches. The officers ...feel very much his loss. He was always in perfect good humour and ready to assist anyone else ...you will always know that in 1 Platoon he will never be forgotten."



Godfrey received the **Military Cross** and was buried in **Cambrin Churchyard Extension** (pictured left, CWGC). Godfrey is remembered in Bradford Cathedral, on Rawdon Memorial, and on the family grave at **Undercliffe—H 780 Consecrated**.

Only five months later on 3 September 1916, his 28 year old brother Ltn George Gerald Averdieck, who served with the 10th Rifle Brigade, died of wounds in the Military Hospital, Manchester. A third brother Percy Clifford Averdieck died, aged 22 years when the Empress of Ireland was sunk on the St. Lawrence River, Canada, 29 May 1914 following a collision with a Norwegian Collier.

Research by Jean Robinson and Allan Hillary.

FOOTBALL AND WW1

John's father Alfred was the first President of Bradford City Football Club formed in 1903. The new team was soon elected to the Second Division of the Football League and did well in their first season as a professional club. The first ever Football League local derby at Valley Parade took place on 24 October 1914. It was a thrilling encounter. Charlie Storer, Oscar Fox and Jimmy McLlvenny scored as City defeated Bradford Park Avenue 3-2. The immense shadow of the Great War was by now hanging over the whole city of Bradford and the 29,802 crowd at that match heard repeated appeals for recruits. At half-time the former president of both Manningham Northern Union (Rugby

16. 2nd LIEUTENANT JOHN AYRTON

John came from a prominent Bradford business family and was brought up by his parents Alfred and Harriet Ayrton at the family home 37 Blenheim Road, Bradford. His father was proprietor of Westbrook Mill in Shearbridge Road, Bradford being a wool merchant, comber and top maker.

John Ayrton attended Bradford Grammar School and like many of the students wasted no time in volunteering. Mrs Mary Needham, a surviving family member, recalls a conversation with John's father Alfred:

"...lots of boys at the Grammar rushed to enlist and went directly from school, along Manningham Lane and into Belle Vue Barracks to join the West Yorkshire Regiment..."

The record of John's service is incomplete. We do know that he did indeed enlist with the **1st West Yorkshire Regiment** and rose to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. He fought at the Battle of Loos and The Bradford Weekly Telegraph of 6 August 1915 reported that he had been *"...wounded on Tuesday morning in the fleshy part of the shoulder"*.

The poet and novelist Robert Graves described this battle in his autobiography *Goodbye To All That*, 1929, and this work is important for examining the many changes in British society that resulted from the maelstrom of WW1.

John died of wounds on 29 April 1917 aged just 20 years and was buried at **Bethune Town Cemetery** (*grave pictured left*). During the war Bethune, near Arras in northern France, was an important railway and hospital hub being the location for the 33rd Casualty Clearing Station. He is also remembered at the family plot in **Undercliffe—L 157 Consecrated.** (AT & NM)

Photographs courtesy of Mary Needham.

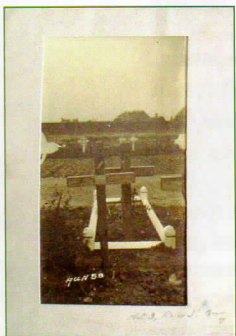
League) Club and Bradford City made a short but rousing speech in support of the war effort which was followed by showers of money and cigarettes. Several Bradford City players fought with the Pals, and other regiments, including Dickie Bond, goalkeeper Jock Ewart and Jimmy Speirs, who scored the winning goal in the 1911 FA Cup Final that brought the cup to Valley Parade. The Cup had been designed that year by Fattorini's of Bradford. Donald Bell of Bradford Park Avenue received the Victoria Cross but sadly fell at the Somme.

Further Information on WW1 & Sport: Bradford Pals, David Raw:

Football Remembers—the 1914 Christmas Truce at

<http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/footballremembers>

Research David Pendleton and Neil McLellan.



17. 2nd LIEUTENANT HAROLD COLLEY

Harold was born in Bradford on 3 March 1891 and the family home was at 879 Moor Park Terrace, Bradford. Little is known about his school days but he did well enough to attend university. After graduating from the University of Liverpool in 1913 with an Arts Degree, Harold took up a position as English Lecturer at Posen in Poland.

In June 1914 he came home for a holiday leaving all of his possessions in the care of friends as he intended to return to his post in September. In the meantime war broke out. He decided to join the army and while he was waiting for enlistment took a temporary job at Skipton Grammar School. He was soon asked to teach French and German to the officers at the Camp and was promised a commission by Colonel Muller. He trained for this through the Inns Of Court.

Harold joined the **18th Bn West Yorkshire Regiment (Second Bradford Pals)** on 17 August 1914 and went to Egypt. The regiment returned to France in 1916 by which time he had been promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. The regiment went into action at the **Battle of the Somme at Serre Village** on 30 June 1916. The Bn War Diary indicates that Harold was both a Platoon Commander and an Intelligence Officer undertaking such duties as night patrols to check on German lines in the build up to battle. *(picture below, film still ©IWM Q70164, Somme frontline)*

Harold was reported missing on 1 July 1916 presumed killed in action. This description made by a comrade several months later captures in graphic and chilling detail what the soldiers had to endure. *(interview from The National Archives)*



"If this is the Lt Colley in D.Coy, it was on the 1st July about 8.30 in the morning after we had gone over in Colin Camp, the village of Serre was our objective, that me and Cpl Amos got separated from our platoon. We bore off to the left and saw Lt Colley, lying on the top of a shell hole, bleeding badly in the back. He asked us for a drink of water, and asked us to carry him into our front line trench. We did, and layed him against the side. We went on further in the same trench, but couldn't get on as the German barrage was on. Then word came that we were to retire; we went back and passed the same place we layed him, but couldn't find him. There were no stretcher bearers to take anyone down and I think he was blown to pieces or buried. They were shelling every inch of the trench, and I don't know how we got back ourselves."

Harold is remembered on **Thiepval Memorial** and on the family grave at **Undercliffe I 873 Consecrated Section. (AH & NM)**

18. FATHER AND SON—THOMAS AND WILLIAM HUGGINS

Thomas Huggins was born in Suffolk and by 1911 was living at 38 Orange Street, Bradford with Ellen, his wife of 18 years, and their five surviving children—they had also lost five children.

Thomas was employed as a stoker at the Birkshall Gas Works (picture right Alan Longbottom 1970s) in Laisterdyke, Bradford. In 1914 the gas works was owned by Bradford Corporation and operated from several sites in the city. Although 43 years old Thomas enlisted with the **6th West Yorkshire Regiment** on 29 December 1914 but, following training, was discharged as medically unfit to serve in May 1915 due to a condition unconnected with his military service.



William was also employed as a stoker at the Gas Works. The detailed service record of Sergeant William Huggins is sketchy. It is thought that William also joined the **6th West Yorkshire Regiment** in 1914, at the age of 20, and he is known to have landed in France in January 1915. What is clear, however, is that he was awarded the **Distinguished Conduct Medal**, one of the highest awards for gallantry. His citation states that William served with great bravery and distinction:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as platoon commander when sent forward to reinforce a platoon that had suffered 80% casualties. He led two separate attacks on machine gun emplacements, killing the teams and capturing the guns. When about 800 yards of the captured line was being held by 300 men and 17 officers, of whom 130 men and 12 officers became casualties, he walked up and down the line for nearly 4 hours encouraging the men, and thus enabled them, though tired and hungry and outflanked to right and left, to hold on."



From details in this citation it is thought that he fought in the **Battle of Passchendaele**. Officially known as the **3rd Battle of Ypres**, it took place between 31 July—6 November 1917 and was one of the key offensives of WW1 planned by British Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig. The battle became notorious for the ground conditions, utter devastation and the number of casualties. Immense amounts of shelling and the heaviest rainfall for 30 years reduced the area to a swampy quagmire poisoned by mustard gas. The slimy mud was so deep in places that men, horses and mules drowned in it. (see picture above left, commons.wikimedia.org) The Allies lost 325,000 men and the Germans lost 260,000 in the battle.

William survived the war, came back to Bradford and resumed his job at the gas works. He died in 1927 aged 34. He was buried in the family plot at **Undercliffe - D 909 Consecrated Section**. (AB, AH & NM)

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