

WALKINGTON

REMEMBERS



A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN ON THE WALKINGTON WAR MEMORIAL

(Part 1)

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1. Introduction

The information contained in this book relies heavily on the painstaking work of Christine Elston. In 2014 Christine compiled a wonderful book, '*Walkington Remembers*', to commemorate the beginning of World War 1. Her book included an account of the happenings in the village at the beginning of the Great War and of the men who made the ultimate sacrifice for us all.

Christine moved from Beverley with her parents Ernie and Doris Teal and her sister Pat just after the 2nd World War. She is married to John and has two daughters and two grandchildren. She grew up alongside the descendants of some of the men on the war memorial. Christine trained first as a general nurse and then as a psychiatric nurse at Broadgate hospital and had a nursing career spanning four decades.

In 2018, to commemorate the end of WW1, Steve Thorpe worked with the Walkington community to bring together a project to remember all those men from Walkington who left for war, never to return. This project took the name of Christine's book, '*Walkington Remembers*'.

The campaign's aim was to raise £2,500 in order to buy a silhouette for each of the 26 men from WW1 named on the Walkington War memorial however he quickly decided that the 8 from WW2 and 1 from the Korean War should also be honoured making a total of 35 silhouettes. Each silhouette was 5' 7" tall, the average height of a British soldier in WW1, and bore the name of one of the 35 men. Each also had the inscription "Near this place I lived and was loved". At the end of October 2018 they were distributed around the village at the closest point where each man either lived or worked. They were moved to the All Hallows Churchyard prior to 11th November, 2018 on which day a wonderfully moving service was held commemorating the end of hostilities.

Steve moved to East Yorkshire with his young family in 2008 after a long career in the British Army, Corps of Royal Engineers. In 2010 while working for the MOD in Leconfield he decided to buy a house in Walkington, finally moving in to the village in 2011.

Further research was carried out by Steve Dowler. Steve moved to Walkington with his wife Jenny in January 1981. They have two daughters, a son and two grandchildren. Steve spent his working life at sea and in the offshore industry. He has had a long time interest in both WW1 and WW2 and has made many trips to both the D-Day beaches and the Somme. During visits to the latter he has visited a number of graves or memorials of the Walkington men. In July 2016 he attended the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme where he joined a group of fellow enthusiasts on the morning of July 1st in the Sunken Lane near Beaumont Hamel at the hour the troops launched the initial attack. Leading the group was Andy Robertshaw, English military historian, curator, author and educator, best known for his television appearances in programmes such as *Two Men in a Trench* and *Time Team*. He was also a military advisor on the film *War Horse*.

Steve produced a PowerPoint show which was shown in All Hallows Church during a wonderful WW1 Memorial Concert organised by villager Peter Chew. He then had the honour of putting this book together for people to have the opportunity to learn about those brave souls who gave their life for their country. Again it seemed only fitting to use the title '*Walkington Remembers*'.

2. Foreword by Reverend David Messer

It is an honour to be asked to write the foreword for this amazing book

In 2018 a commemoration took place to remember the end of WW1. This led to the Silhouettes being placed at the site of the Walkington War Memorial and along the footpath of the church after having been outside where they lived through the village. A very powerful and moving moment as they stood bowed as people came to Remembrance.

The book very movingly and carefully unfolds the stories of the young and old who went to war and the families involved. It tells the stories of local people and how their families were affected. Many of the descendants of those families are still present in the village and can still remember how devastated their families felt.

I commend this book for all those who read about the history of WW1 and other wars, and want to know more about the people, their families, their community and how this affected thousands.

I can only offer this;

We give thanks this day, O Lord of hosts, for all that makes our common life so secure; for the peace and freedom we enjoy; and for the opportunity that is ours of building a better society for the generation to come.

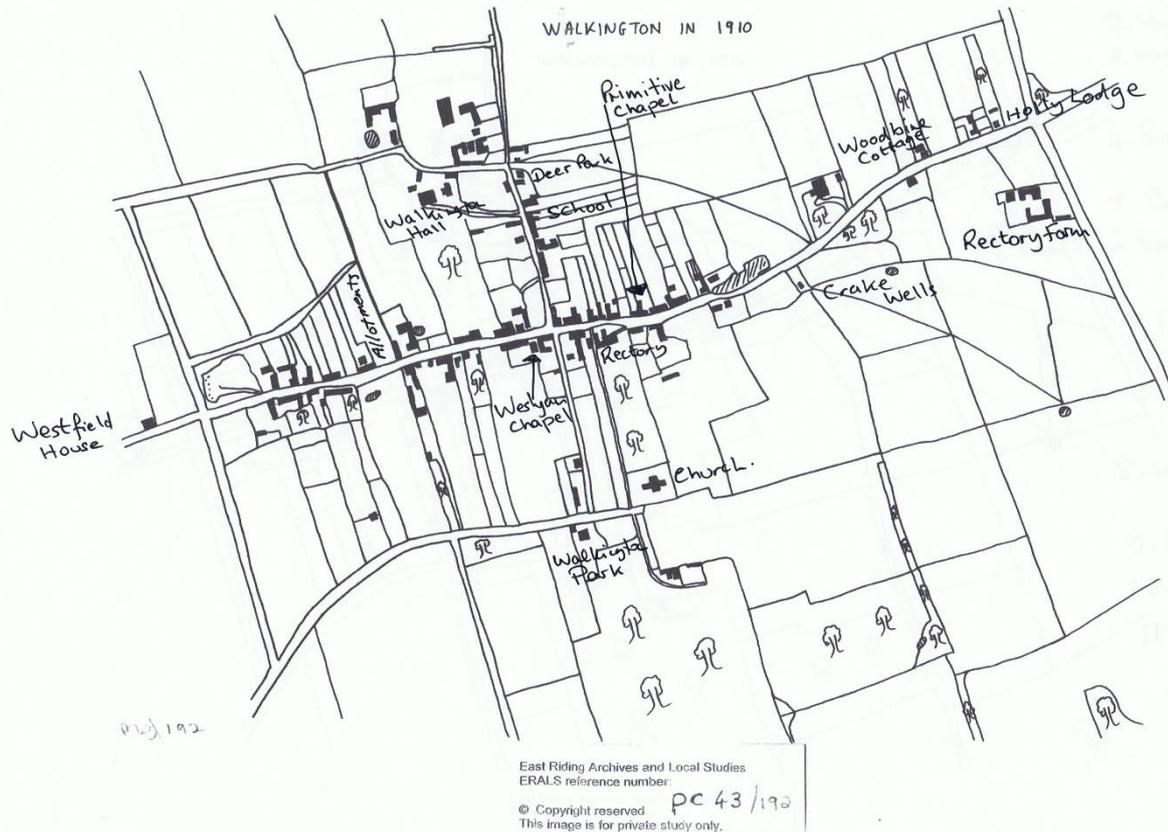
We remember with pride and gratitude those who fought and died to make this possible; and we pray that the memory of their sacrifice may inspire in us the resolve to seek your kingdom and to do your will for the world of our day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THANKYOU

3. Walkington in 1914

The village consisted of West End, East End, Northgate and a few houses on the periphery up Kirk Lane and Townend road. There were also some outlying farms and cottages on the Risby estate. (Ordnance survey map 1910 PC43/1920)



Printed with the permission of Walkington Parish Council.

Most of the families were housed in small cottages, the majority of which have been pulled down except for those along East End just past the Barrel Inn and in Ivy Terrace and Northgate.

Domestic life was a hard graft as lighting was by oil-lamps, water was drawn from wells, either in people's gardens or from the well in Crake Wells, heating and cooking was done on the fire range, and earth closets were at the bottom of the garden.

Walkington was not an estate village as, for example, Sledmere (although the land owned by the owners of Walkington Hall amounted to 1,440 acres) so the village enjoyed a more relaxed relationship with the Chater-Fawsitts who were known as great benefactors. Walkington during the Great War was a small rural community of around 1,288 people, which included 591 inmates and 95 staff of the East Riding Asylum (later Broadgate Hospital). Life revolved around work or school, chapel, church or the 'alternative pew' of the public house.

At All Hallows Church the Reverend Michael Watson Bodley Dawe was the rector living at what we now know as the Old Rectory. He and his wife Mary (who wrote the poem *Le Jour Des Morts* which can be found in section 11 of this book), came from the West Country and were looked after by a cook called Eliza Brooks and a housemaid called Sarah Williamson. His total flock was 600 people, and the rest of the population attended the two chapels in the village. At that time these were the Primitive

Methodist Chapel on East End and the Jubilee Methodist Chapel on West End. (The Primitive and Wesleyan chapels did not join together until 1962).

Presiding at the school on Northgate was Mr Samuel Stafford Granger, assisted by Mr. J. R. Hayward, who would answer the call to arms in 1915, and Miss. Skingle, Miss. Mathews and Miss. Smith. Mr. Granger himself also went off to war in 1917.

The Parish council led by the Reverend Dawe met at the Board School.

The inhabitants were provided with local shops run by Miss. Rose Farrow and Mr. Edward Page. Miss. Farrow's shop was on West End; this is now number 24.

The village blacksmith was Mr. Tom Bailey and children returning home from school loved to stop at the forge at the Ferguson Fawsitt Arms to watch him shoeing horses and, for a treat, helping to blow the bellows.

The joiner and wheelwright Mr. Rotsey Lawson was across the road; the local builder Sam Lythe was at Kirk View up Kirk Lane. Any goods required to be brought from Beverley or Hull where collected by one of the two carriers Fred Ridsdale or John Tom Anderson. There were six market gardeners, all growing produce to send to market. A butcher Mr. Fred Willie at the bottom of Northgate would slaughter and sell his own meat and this too was a source of entertainment for children leaving school. He was assisted in this by Jim Smith who later took over from him and was known by all as 'Butcher Jim'.

The post office was the domain of Miss. Smith, who would have been the first to receive news of the deaths of village boys.

Robert and Ralph Dunning milled corn at Walkington Mill, some of which was supplied by the local farmers Edward Bailey, John Boynton, Edward Broomfield, William Cook,(Broadgate Farm) Alfred Carter, John Dunning, David Foster(Wolds), Mrs Gardham, Edmund Hairsine (Wolds), Harry Burrell (Lion's Den), Thomas Joys, George Leaper (Manor Farm), Albert Webster (Bank Farm), Lawson Wilson (Butt Farm) the Asylum farm run by Thurlow Moses and the Mathisons at Towers Farm (later renamed Northlands farm)

Poultry was raised by Fred 'Chuck' Richardson and John Taylor at Broadgate Cottage.

At The Dog and Duck mine host was Edward Spence, at the Ferguson Fawsitt no less than three Ashtons looked after your needs and at the Barrel Inn Mary Holmes was the beer retailer.

The tailor was Mr. Arthur Cross and Mr. George Sanderson and Thomas Anderson would make your boots and mend your shoes. Hannah Haldenby would take in your washing if you could afford to pay her and various ladies in the village would make their livings by dressmaking.

At Walkington Hall, the Chater-Fawsitts were looked after by a cook, house keeper, a groom, and gardener John Grant and his son.

Charles Marshall and George Ridsdale were joiners and most of the people living in the village would have been employed within the established businesses.

4. The British Army in 1914

World War 1 began in July 1914 following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and lasted until 1918. During the conflict, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (the Central Powers) fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States (the Allied Powers). Thanks to new military technologies and the horrors of trench warfare, World War 1 saw unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction. By the time the war was over and the Allied Powers claimed victory, more than 16 million people soldiers and civilians alike were dead.

In August 1914, Field Marshall Lord Kitchener dismissed the prevailing view that the war would be 'over by Christmas' and announced his intention to raise five new armies, 500,000 men. Each army would be in the image of the British Expeditionary Force that had been sent to fight alongside the French as the Germans invaded Belgium. Volunteers came forward in unprecedented numbers, causing an immediate shortage of equipment and experienced officers to train recruits into soldiers. For the first of these new armies, known unofficially as K1 and K2, the problems were soon rectified but with K3, K4 and K5 the problems of inexperienced officers became critical. Shortages of uniforms and equipment and the inability to get troops quickly into place increased the problems of the senior officers. Communications between the allies was, at times, almost non-existent and troops were often moved without any knowledge of what was happening in other parts of the line.

The ordinary soldier had quickly to learn that these armies were made up of two or three Corps which comprised two or three Divisions (15,000 to 20,000 men). A British Division had three Brigades, these Brigades were made up of four Battalions and each battalion had four Companies of two hundred men. A Company consisted of four Platoons and these would be the pals you trained with and fought alongside.

5. WW1 Stages of the war – Sequence of the loss of the Walkington Men

Of almost a hundred men from Walkington who answered the call to arms, twenty-six men with Walkington connections who lost their lives fighting for king and country in the 1914-18 war are commemorated on the war memorial in Walkington churchyard. Five others with Walkington connections also lost their lives. Most of these men would have known, been at school with, lived next door to or worked with each other. Some had family connections through marriage in village families.

Phase 1: The German Invasion of Belgium, August 1914.

As the British Expeditionary Force fulfilled their pledge to protect Belgium from invasion, two of our Walkington men who had been regular soldiers were preparing to embark for France. **Daniel Reynolds**, a past regular soldier in the King's Royal Rifle Corp would be the first Walkington man to lose his life as the troops dug in to try to protect the town of Armentieres, on the French/ Belgium border. He died on 2nd November, 1914. Meanwhile, **Timothy Oliver** had been recalled from the Durham Constabulary to service in the Coldstream Guards. He would have said goodbye to his wife Jane, and five young children expecting to be home for Christmas; he died on Christmas Day,

following the successful defence of the village of Givenchy. One can only speculate on the scene at his home in West Hartlepool as his wife received the telegram and relayed the news to his family in Walkington. Both of these men were awarded the 1914/15 Star with bar to denote they had been in the front line. The spontaneous truce that happened along the lines between German/French, German/British, German/Russian and Austrian /Russian troops at Christmas 1914 allowed the dead to be buried peacefully; amongst these was **Timothy Oliver**. In one instance between the German/British troops the Germans actually carried the British dead to the middle of 'no man's land'.

During this first phase of the war the French, British and Belgium troops had conducted a dogged defensive battle in which they were just able to hold the line against heavy odds. Total British casualties from September to December 1914 were 89,964.

Phase 2: Trench Warfare 1915.

By 1915, as spring gave way to summer, the troops were dug in for trench warfare. The trenches on both sides were defended by swathes of barbed wire, sometimes four lines deep. They were designed to be impenetrable, protecting both fronts from infantry attack. A series of lines stretched from the English Channel to Switzerland. The trenches were a vast network of sophisticated dugouts where soldiers lived and worked. Both sides planned and executed attacks on each other trying to gain ground. Over the course of the next four years, yards and sometimes miles would be gained and then lost again.

Our next Walkington man, **John Blades**, was to die as the town of Ypres was defended for a second time on 12th May 1915. At these second battles of Ypres the Germans used chlorine gas for the first time.

Phase 3: The Allied Offensive (Operations on the Somme).

By 1916, the French were suffering enormous casualties at Verdun and pleaded with the British to attack on the Somme in order to relieve German pressure on Verdun. The Allied Offensive which was the Operations on the Somme took place between 1st July and 18th November 1916; these bloody battles were to claim 170,182 lives, amongst them six Walkington men. In the build up to the battle before the men went 'over the top' in 'The Big Push' the German lines were bombarded with thousands of tons of shells. The British Generals believed that this barrage would have flattened the German trenches and they told the men to go over the top and walk slowly towards the German lines which they expected to be empty. This proved not to be so and the German machine guns opened up and mowed down the British forces. On this first day 20,000 men were killed, and 40,000 wounded, the heaviest loss by British forces in a single day. Morale had been high before this battle, afterwards the soldiers began to understand what they were up against. Firstly, **Frank Marson** of the 8th East Yorks., was killed (The East Yorkshire Regiment took a particular battering), then **John Gilbank** in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment.; **Harry Duggleby** 8th East Yorks., **Alan Mathison** 1st East Yorks., **Thomas Taylor** 1st East Yorks, **William Ash** 1st East Yorks., and finally **John Haith** 3rd Coldstream Guards all gave their lives in this terrible slaughter. The men had been under constant barrage from heavy guns with gas attacks increasing the living nightmare.

Frank Marson also had a brother, **William Tindall Marson**, who was with the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed on 27th March 1918 aged 19, probably during the action in Rossignol Wood. His name is not on the Walkington War memorial.

Harold Ashton who had emigrated to South Africa may have been involved in the battles around Delville Wood on the Somme in 1916. If he was he survived, not dying until 1918.

Phase 4: Advance to the Hindenburg Line.

By the end of 1916 the Front was advancing to the Hindenburg line. The Hindenburg Line had been strategically placed by the German high command, and prepared unmolested by allied troops, it was a forty-mile defensive wall made up of trenches and barbed wire designed to defend Germany from an anticipated increase in the Anglo- French attacks. The Germans believed it was impregnable. The British Offensives of 1917/18 proved otherwise.

Phase 5: The Allied offensive (3rd Ypres) Passchendaele 1917.

The offensive continued throughout 1917; The Battle of Arras in April/May, The Battle of Messines Ridge, June 1917; 3rd. Ypres July/ November and Cambrai, December 1917.

Robert Plimpton, the only officer named on the Walkington memorial, was to lose his last fight on 27th September 1917. He had been awarded the Military Cross and Bar.

(The Military Cross was awarded to officers and non-commissioned officers (N.C.O.) in appreciation of distinguished and meritorious service in time of war. Bars were added for subsequent awards.)

Ernest Farrow was involved in the push towards Cambrai when tanks were successfully used to breach the Hindenburg line. Despite breaching the line the capture of Cambrai from the enemy could not be achieved. He lost his life during the retreat after this unsuccessful attack.

Despite the Royal Navy having command of the high seas much shipping was lost due to enemy action, although this was not the cause of the loss of our two Royal Navy men.

Stoker **Albert Collinson**, who was serving as a stoker in the Royal Navy, lost his life on 9 July, 1917, on board H.M.S. Vanguard, not through enemy action but through a probable fault in the design of the ship when cordite combusted causing an explosion which ripped through the ship as it manoeuvred off Scapa Flow. He drowned together with 900 of the ship's crew. Another Royal Navy man Able Seaman **George Boynton** was also lost when his ship, H.M.S. Narbrough broke up and sank as it went to the assistance of H.M.S. Opel, off the Orkneys on 12th January, 1918.

Phase 6: The German offensive 1918.

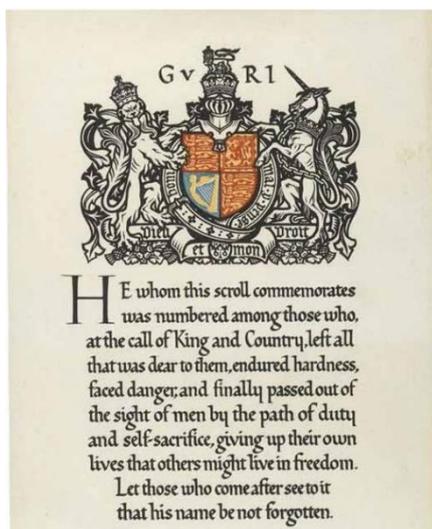
As the Germans continued their final offensive from March through to June 1918, seven more Walkington men were to sacrifice their lives. These men were Private **Fred Dinsdale**, Private **Charles Dunn**, Private **Harry Ezard**, Gunner **Walter Purdon**, Private **Harry Lawson**, Private **John Cross**

and Private **Frank Hayton**. The men were weary after two years of attacking German lines only to be thrown back almost forty miles with heavy casualties. At this stage we came very close to losing the war.

Phase 7: Advance to Victory.

Finally, on 8th August, 1918, the armies began their advance to victory; they would again fight over the land of the Somme. The war of attrition which had lasted four years was over. Private **Tom Noddle** would survive almost to the end of the war but was killed on 27th August, 1918. **Harry Wadsworth** who had been suffering from tuberculosis would die at home in 1918, and Gunner **George Ridsdale** would also die at home in 1919 from the results of being gassed earlier in the war. Trooper **Harold Ashton** would die in faraway Johannesburg as he waited for demobilisation

The armistice was signed at 5a.m. on 11th November, 1918. At 11am that morning the fighting stopped. On 18th January, 1919 The Peace Conference assembled in Paris and the peace treaty was presented to the Germans in May, 1919. The formal signing of the treaty took place in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles in June, but there was much tidying up to be done in the rest of Europe. Some decisions would contribute to the Second World War, but that is another story.



The families of all these men and others, who died, would have received an illuminated scroll and memorial plaque or death penny along with any medals awarded.



The 1914 Star and Bar was awarded to all men who had been in action from 5th August to 22nd November 1914.

Those who were in France between those dates but saw no action got the 1914 Star but no Bar; these men were members of the original British Expeditionary Force or 'Old Contemptibles'.



The 1914-15 Star was awarded to men who saw active service after 1914 up to the end of 1915. Men who enlisted in or after 1916 did not get a Star; all would be awarded the War Medal and Victory Medal.

6. WW1 Roll of Honour – in alphabetical order

William Ash

Harold George Ashton

John William Blades

George Edward Boynton

Albert William Collinson

John (Jack) Cross

Fred Dinsdale

Harry Newmarch Duggleby

Charles Percy Dunn

Harry Ezard

Ernest Arthur Farrow

John Williamson Gilbank

John Robert Haith

Frank Hayton

Harry Lawson

Frank Tindall Marson

Alan Mathison

Thomas Noddle

Timothy Oliver

Robert Albert Plimpton

Walter Edward Purdon

Daniel Reynolds

George Robert Ridsdale

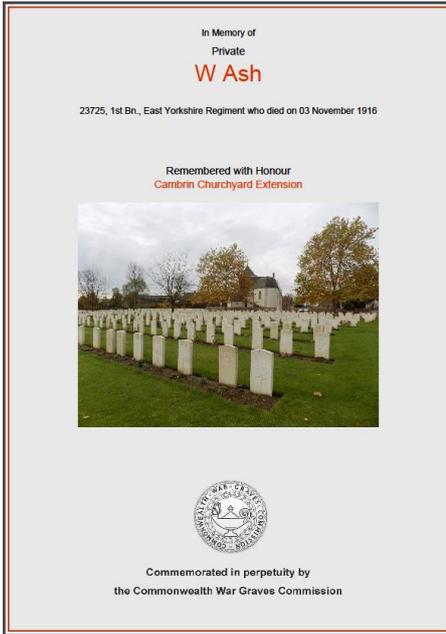
Thomas William Taylor

Walter Thorley

Harold Wadsworth



William Ash



Private – 23725: 1st Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

William, (Willie) was born in 1886; he was the son of Henry Ash and Hannah Ash and brother of Fred, Charles, George, Harriet and Alfred. He attended Walkington School. Also living with the family in 1911 was a niece called Ada May. They lived in a cottage, now demolished, on East End which would have been where the shop is now.

Willie was killed in action on 3rd November 1916 at the Battle of Ancre Heights during the Battles of the Somme. He had been on active service in France for nine weeks when he was caught by a sniper's bullet; death followed immediately. Prior to joining up he had been a gardener for Mr. W. A. Plimpton of Park House. (Father of Captain Robert Plimpton) Letters from his comrades stated that Private Ash was a good soldier, cheerful and keen in the discharge of his duty; his death was mourned by the whole platoon.

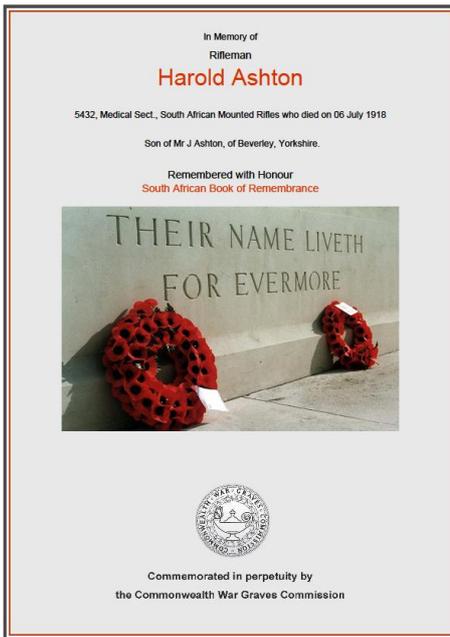
His commemorative gravestone in Walkington churchyard is inscribed:

Pte Willie Ash
1st East Yorkshire Reg.
Killed in action in France
Nov. 3rd 1916 aged 30years

William Ash is buried in Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Grave S.21. near Bethune, France.



Harold George Ashton



Trooper – 5432: South African Mounted Rifles. South African Field Force, (S.A.L.H.) – Medical Section

The Ashton family worked at Walkington Hall during the time of the Ferguson-Fawsitts and following retirement from their service on the death of John Daniel Fawsitt, Harold's father and mother, Thomas and Beatrice lived at the White House, East End (opposite the village hall) until they both died in 1917. A daughter, Dora Scholefield, lived with them and a son Louis was landlord of the Ferguson-Fawsitt Arms helped by his sisters Martha and Beatrice. Harold George Ashton was born in 1881 and attended Walkington School. The 1901 census shows him boarding in Beverley with James Thomas as an apprentice wheelwright.

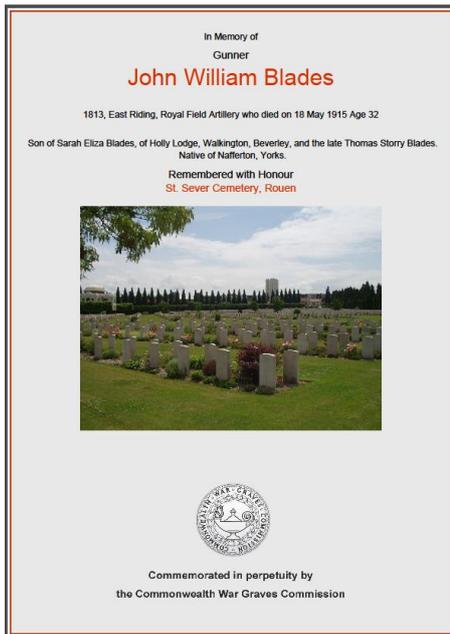
In August, 1914 Louis Botha and Jan Smuts took the Union of South Africa into war in support of Great Britain. Harold George Ashton joined the South African Mounted Rifles in August 1915. Over 146,000 men served in South African units during the war fighting on three principal fronts. The first engagement was to capture German South-West Africa. They then took part in the major engagements during the Battle of the Somme. The entire Brigade attacked at Delville Wood; of 3,153 officers and men who mustered on 14th July, only 750 were left alive by 20th July. There is a plaque at the Delville Wood memorial depicting the remnants of the South African Brigade coming out of the wood after being relieved.

Harold died in Johannesburg whilst awaiting discharge on 6 July 1918. He was 37 years of age. He is buried in the Johannesburg (Brixton) cemetery.

Graves in Walkington churchyard show Ashtons coming from Long Riston in Holderness and chairs in Walkington church commemorate various members of the family including Harold.



John William Blades



Gunner – 1813: East Riding Royal Field Artillery

John Blades was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Blades of Walkington. He had an elder sister Mary Elizabeth and he attended Walkington School.

The Beverley Guardian of 29th May, 2015 reports:

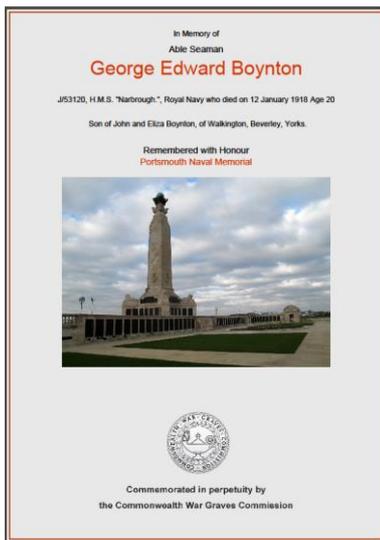
Local man killed at the front. John William Blades 1915. The first intimation the parents received was a field postcard from the deceased that he was being sent down to the base, but this bore the bare announcement that he was wounded. In the meantime Mr. T. Brown received a letter from his son Gunner Frank Brown of the same battery (who had been riding on the next gun) stating that he saw his chum John Blades fall from his gun and believed broke his leg. A letter was next received from The District Territorial Force Record Office in York, stating Gunner Blades was suffering from a severe gunshot wound in the thigh and was in the general hospital at Rouen. Finally, news that he had died on May 12 of wounds received in action was received by his parents "to whom the utmost sympathy is extended by a wide range of friends". The deceased who was well known and highly esteemed prior to enlisting at Wenlock barracks Hull, had for some time acted as a special constable at Cherry Burton and had been at the front for about 5 weeks.

The Battle of Frezenberg took place between 8-13th of May 1915. John's CWGC record shows that he died on 18th May so it is probable that he was killed in this attack as the Germans made repeated mass attacks to take the salient. He was 32 years of age. He is buried in St. Severs Cemetery, Grave A.10.2. Rouen, France.

Mr Thomas Blades died six months after the death of his son. Mrs Blades' death was announced in the Beverley Guardian just two months later; she lived at 'Holly Lodge' on East End. The chief mourners at the funeral were Mrs Barmby and Mrs Legard her daughters, the latter who also lived at Holly Lodge



George Edward Boynton



Able Seaman – J/53120: Royal Navy HMS Narbrough

George Boynton was born in 1898; he was the son of John and Eliza Boynton and brother of Eva. He attended Walkington School. The 1911 census shows George as living with his parents and sister on West End and assisting on the farm. This is now the 'Old Barn' on West End. His sister Eva took over from her father as organist at the chapel. Many people will remember Eva in this role which she fulfilled well into the 1980's.

George joined the Royal Navy as soon as he was eighteen and served as an able seaman on H.M.S. Narbrough; he was just 20 years of age when the vessel was sunk off the coast of the Orkneys on 12th January, 1918.

H.M.S. Boadicea, H.M.S. Opel and H.M.S. Narbrough were on dark night patrol off the Orkneys in bad weather with snow blizzards and a heavy swell. Because of the worsening weather the ships were ordered to make for port; at this stage the Opel and Narbrough became separated from the Boadicea and the Opel ran aground on rocks, breaking up almost immediately. The Narbrough came alongside the Opel, but in turning she heeled right over and "*seemed to crack like a piece of firewood*". She went down almost immediately. The Opel was lying in two pieces on her starboard side and the order was given to abandon ship. Walter Sissons, the only survivor, jumped into the sea and was washed up after swimming about 100 yards. He was found the following day and gave evidence to the board of enquiry into the loss of the vessels.

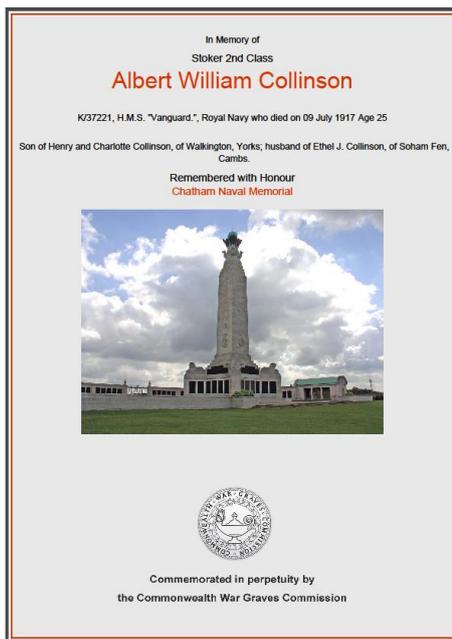
George Edward Boynton is named in the Naval Memorial Registers and is listed on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 29 in Hampshire.

A plaque (above) dedicated to George can be found in Walkington church.

Throughout her life his sister Eva placed a cross on the war memorial each Armistice Sunday.



Albert William Collinson



ALBERT COLLINSON

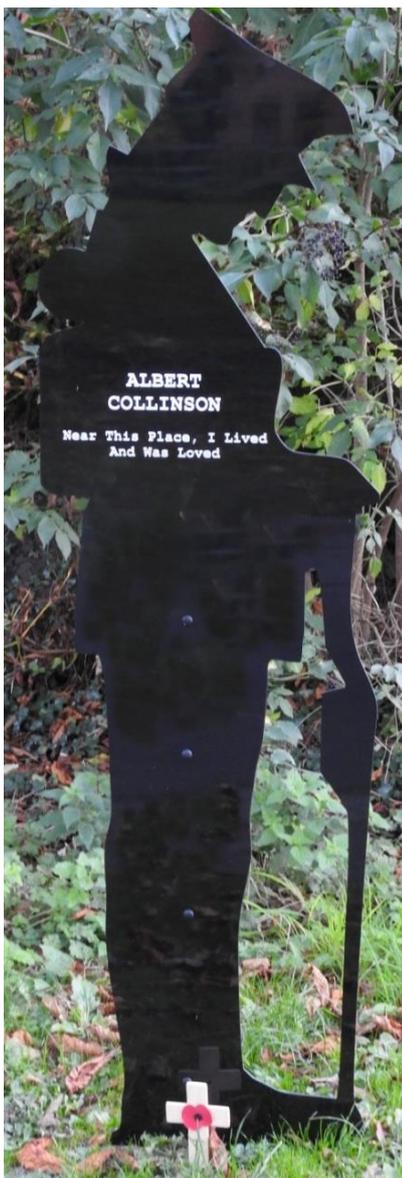
Stoker 2nd Class – K/37221: Royal Navy HMS Vanguard

The 1911 census shows Albert working as a Waggoner at Bishop Burton; the family had been brought up at Halfpenny gate cottage on the Risby estate and had lived in Walkington for most of the nineteenth century. He attended school in Little Weighton and received a prize at school which is still (2019) in the possession of his niece, Brenda Wilson. Albert was the son of Henry (Harry) Collinson and Charlotte Collinson, brother of Annie and Amos and he was married to Audrey who lived in Soham Fen Cambridgeshire. He had lived in Soham Fen for some time before he enlisted in the Navy. In 1916 he underwent training at Chatham until the New Year when he undertook duties on H.M.S. Vanguard. The vessel was at anchor in Scapa Flow on the night of 9th July when she exploded and sank, 1917. The official report at the time said:-

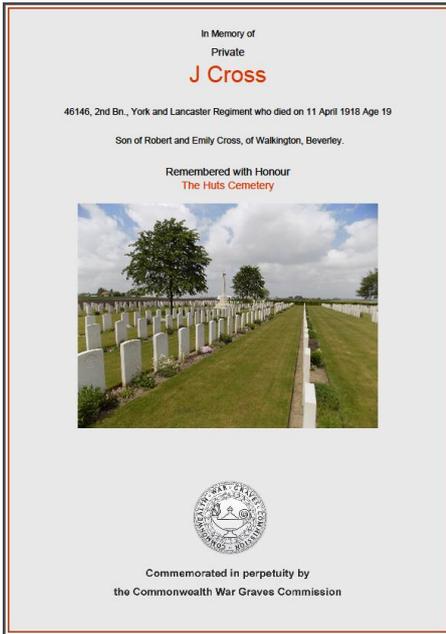
'H.M.S. Vanguard, Scapa Flow, North Scotland at 11.20pm on 9th July; a great explosion occurred in the midst of the Grand Fleet, a terrible detonation took place lighting the whole fleet as if it were daylight. There was a crack and one of the big boats went sky high with a crew of 900 men. All searchlights were switched on immediately but not a thing was seen.'

The full truth about the loss of H.M.S. Vanguard was not made public until long after the war, but it is regarded as Britain's worst sea disaster in home waters. The final confirmed number of dead was 845 with only 2 survivors.

Albert Collinson had previously taken part in the battle of Jutland in May 1916. He was 25 years of age. He left a widow and young daughter and is commemorated on the Soham Fen Memorial, Cambridgeshire and on the Chatham Memorial, Panel 24, Kent.



John (Jack) Cross



John (Jack)



Private – 46146: 2nd Battalion York and Lancashire Regiment

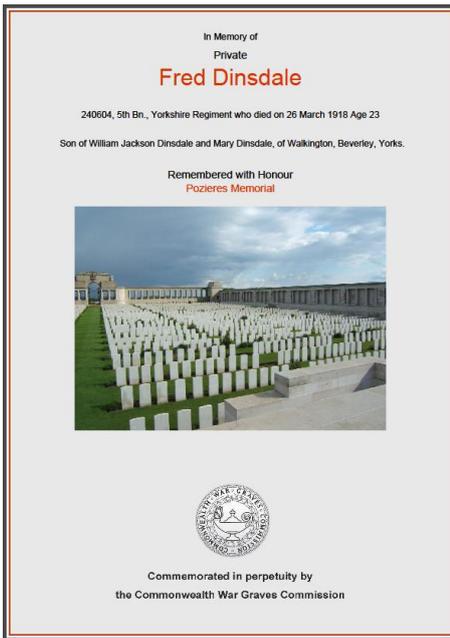
John who was born in 1899 was the son of Robert Edward Cross, who had been born in Middleton, and Emily Cross born in Lund, brother of Walter, Thomas Edward, Ada, Hilda and Harold. In 1911 they were living on East End next door to Mr. T. Oliver and Jack was a pupil at Walkington School. He enlisted on 21st May 1917 at Beverley, and the photograph of his platoon (above) shows a very youthful lad at the Rugeley Training Camp, on Cannock Chase.

Jack, as he was known, was killed on 11th April 1918 during the German offensive. He was 19 years of age.

He is buried in the Huts Cemetery, Grave X1.D.5., West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

He is also commemorated on a memorial tablet (above) in Walkington Methodist Church together with Frank Hayton, Harry Ezard and Bernard Richmond.

Fred Dinsdale



Private – 240604: The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)

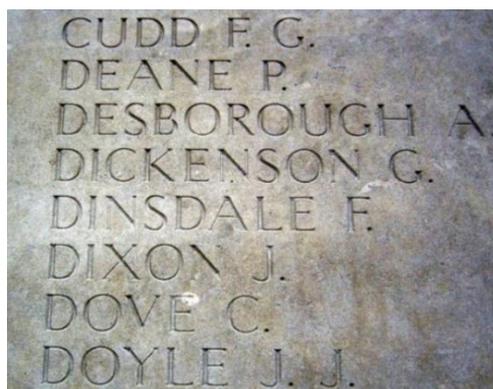
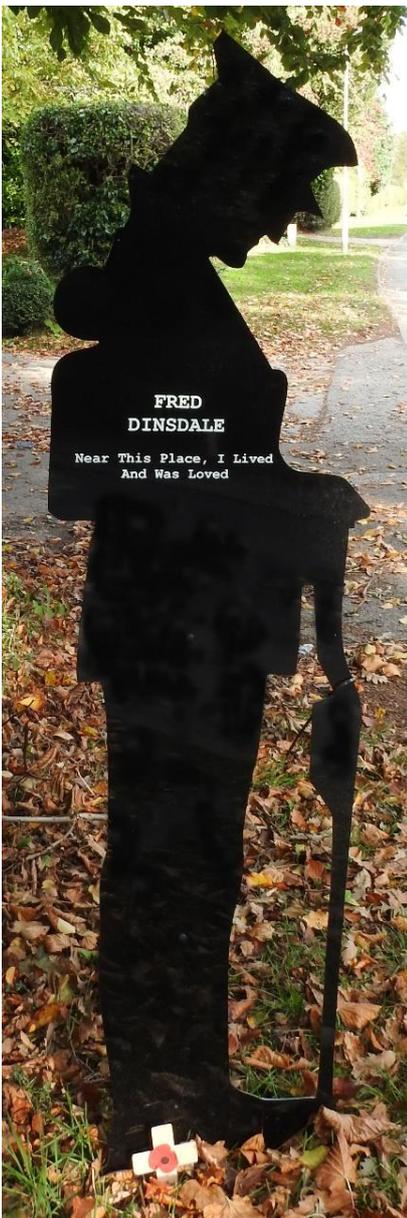
Fred was born in Walkington in 1896, the son of William Jackson Dinsdale and Mary Dinsdale who were both born in Walkington and lived in a cottage on East End, almost next door to other men who had lost their lives. (Cross, Oliver & Dinsdale). He attended Walkington School.

Fred enlisted in Beverley and by the 25th March 1918, the day before Fred died, the 5th Battalion suffered furious attacks from the German advance and had to retreat under a hail of machine gun and artillery fire. It is likely that he died during the fierce fighting at Rossingol Wood, Hebuterne, France. He was 23 years of age.

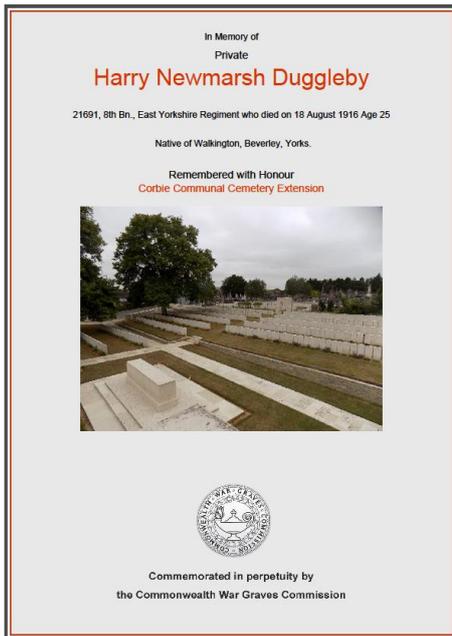
Fred had been reported missing in March 1918, but his death was not recorded in the Beverley Guardian until 12 July, 1919, as the brother of Mrs. Appleton of Norton Street Beverley.

Fred has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing, Panel 31 to 32 (below), France.

He is also commemorated on the Beverley War Memorial in Hengate, and on the East Riding Memorial in Beverley Minster.



Harry Newmarsh Duggleby



Private – 21691: 8th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

Harry was born in Driffield and in 1911 he was living with his grandmother Emma Duggleby in Walkington; he was working at that time as a general labourer at the Whiting works.

He enlisted on 11th December, 1915 and died just 7 months later after being shot in the head during the Battle of Delville Wood on the Somme on 18th August, 1916. He was 25 years of age.

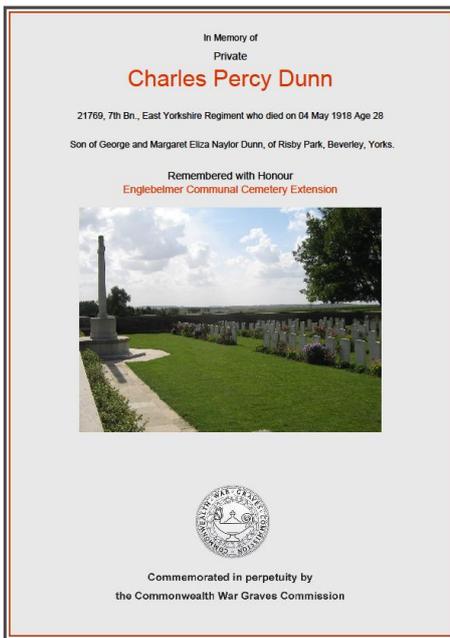
He is buried in the Corbie Communal Cemetery, Plot AG128, near Amiens, France.

A grave in Walkington churchyard hints at other tragedies in the family, as it commemorates Emma's husband, John, dying in 1874 aged 37, four children who died in infancy and another son Walter who was 2nd engineer on S.S. Westbourne who died at sea in 1890 aged 27. Emma was to outlive them all dying in 1933. We can speculate that Harry had come to live with his grandmother to keep her company.

The commemorative plaque (below) can be found in Walkington All Hallows Church.



Charles Percy Dunn



Private – 21769: 7th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

Charles was born in Rowley and lived at Keepers Cottage, Risby Lane, opposite Halfpenny Gate Cottages; his family would have been neighbours with Albert Collinson.

His father George Dunn was the gamekeeper to Stanley Wilson on the Risby Estate and he grew up there together with his mother, Margaret Elizabeth and brothers and sister. His grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Wood from Skidby.

The 1911 census shows him living with his aunt, Emily Ann Thackeray, at 99 Walkergate, Beverley. At that stage he was employed as a jobbing gardener.

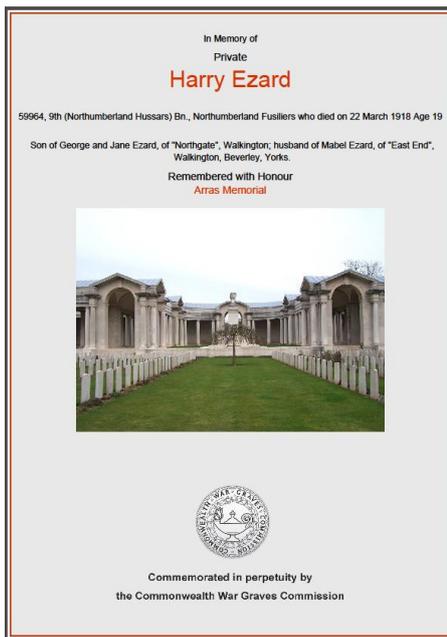
The 7th battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment was formed at Beverley on 16th September, 1914 as part of (Kitchener's 2nd Army) K2 and came under orders of the 50th Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division. They landed in Boulogne in July 1915. In 1918 they were engaged in the 3rd Battles of the Somme.

Charles was wounded during this battle. He died on 4th May 1918 aged 28. He had been wounded earlier in the year and had just returned to the front after a spell of leave at home.

He is buried in Englebelmer Communal Cemetery Extension, Grave B5 near Albert, France. As this was some considerable distance from where Charles was wounded and was also near to the site of a Field Ambulance Station it is possible that he was taken there before he died.

Steve Dowler visited his grave in September 2018 and signed the cemetery memorial book on behalf of Charles' great nephew Jim Dunn who supplied the photograph of Charles.

Harry Ezard



Private – 59964: 9th (Northumberland Hussars) Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers

Harry (William Henry) Ezard was the son of George and Jane (nee Gilbank). His mother was born in Walkington and father in Newbald: on the 1911 census he is aged 12 and living on Northgate. He was married to Mabel who was to be left a widow at a very young age for Harry died of wounds aged 19 on 22nd March 1918. He had been in France only a few months and before enlisting he had worked for M. T. S. Stephenson of Walkington House.

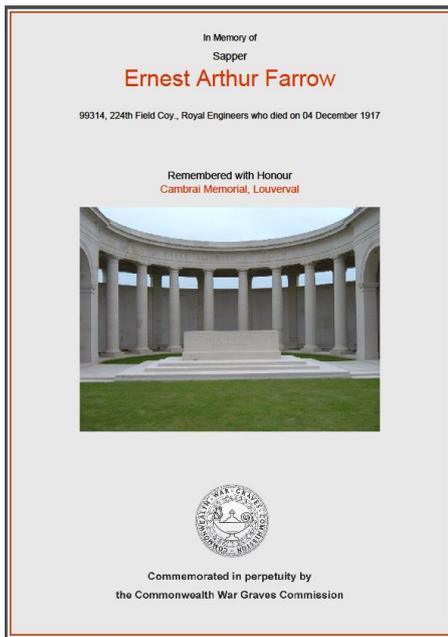
The Northumberland Fusiliers were known as the 'Fighting Fifth'; they were formed in Newcastle in September, 1914 as part of Kitchener's 2nd Army. The 9th (Service) Battalion was assigned to the 52nd Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division at Wareham. On 25 September 1917 it absorbed the 2/1st Northumberland Hussars and became the 9th (Northumberland Hussars) Battalion. At the time of Harry's death they were engaged in the German Offensive during the second battles of the Somme, the first day of which took place in thick fog with a ferocious bombardment from the Germans. Thousands were killed and more captured. Harry Ezard was one of the unfortunate ones killed on the second day of the Battle of St Quentin. His body was lost and he is listed on the Arras Memorial to the Missing, Bay 2&3, France (above). He is also commemorated on the memorial plaque (above) along with Frank Hayton, Jack Cross and Bernard Richmond, which now hangs in Walkington Methodist Church on West End.

When Harry died his wife was expecting a baby. She gave birth to a son and named him Harry after his father.

Harry's death from wounds was reported in the Beverley Guardian, together with a photograph. His widow Mabel was later to remarry into the Ash family.



Ernest Arthur Farrow



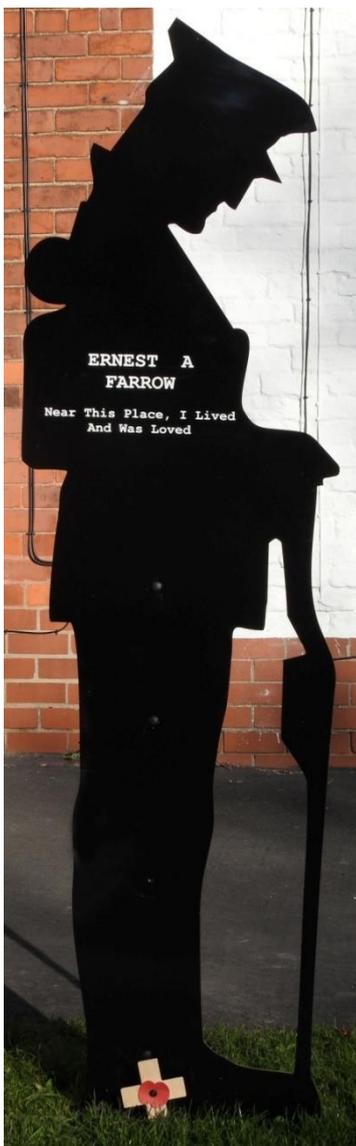
Sapper – 99314: 224th Field Company Royal Engineers

Ernest Farrow was born in 1893; he lived with his parents Edwin (born in Brantingham), mother Sarah and elder sister Rose as near neighbours of the Binningtons. He attended Walkington School. In 1911 Ernest was an apprentice joiner working for Mr. George Blanchard at Lund. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers at Doncaster in 1914. His parents had already lost a son, John, aged 16 in 1898 and were to lose their second son, Ernest, at the Battle of Cambrai just 5 weeks after he had been home on leave. He is commemorated in Walkington Churchyard together with his brother.

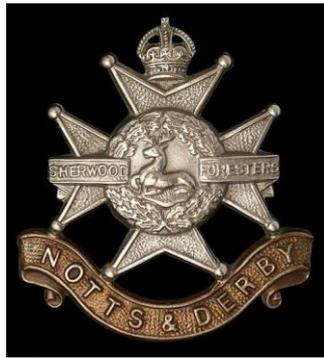
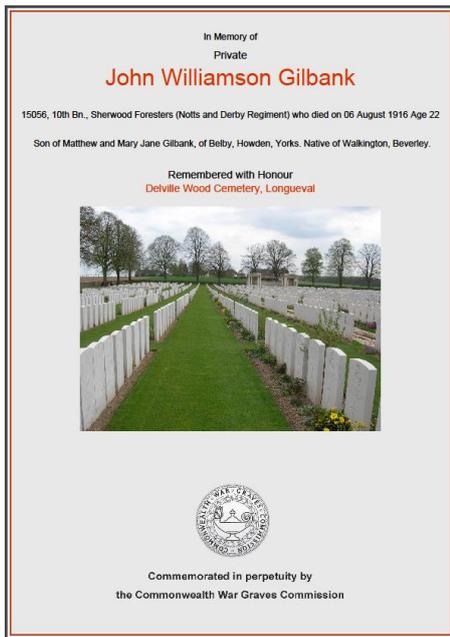
From October 1916 the Royal Engineers (RE's) had been working underground constructing tunnels for the troops in preparation for the Battle of Arras, 1917. Ernest Farrow would not have been employed in tunnelling as this was done by the Royal Engineers with particular skills in this area (miners). However, his skills as a joiner could have been used in bridge building and in numerous jobs of the R. E. Companies.

The opening of the Battle of Cambrai on 20th November, 1917 used over one thousand guns and howitzers and over 400 tanks. Initial advances could not be sustained. Ernest Farrow as part of the 40th division was called up to the front on 22nd November. By 27th November orders were given to consolidate their position and three days later the German army struck back. Ernest Farrow died on 4th December, 1917. He was 24 years of age.

He has no known grave and is recorded on the Cambrai Memorial to the Missing, Panel 1&2, Louverval, France. His parents were to live into old age, Edwin dying in 1937, aged 86 and Sarah in 1941, aged 92. His sister Rose Farrow was to follow in her father's footsteps and keep the village shop until well into the 1950's.



John Williamson Gilbank



Private – 15056: 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts. & Derby Regiment)

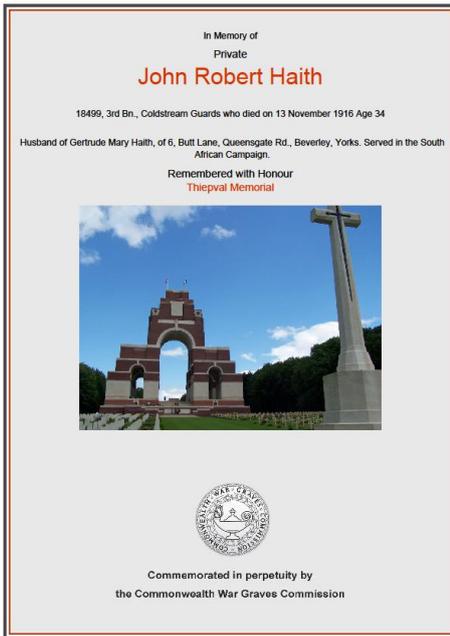
John Gilbank was born in 1893, the son of Mathew Gilbank of Bielby, Howden and Mary Jane Gilbank of Walkington; He attended Walkington School. His father worked for Timothy Oliver, father of Tim Oliver, Coldstream Guards, and on the 1911 census John Gilbank is aged 17 years and working as a Waggoner's help on a farm in Bawtry, Nottinghamshire.

He no doubt joined the Notts and Derbys from that farm and he was to die on 6th August 1916 in Delville Wood during the Battle of the Somme. He was 22 years of age.

He is buried in the Delville Wood Cemetery, Grave XX11.Q.5, Longueval, Picardie, France.



John Robert Haith



Private – 18499: 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards

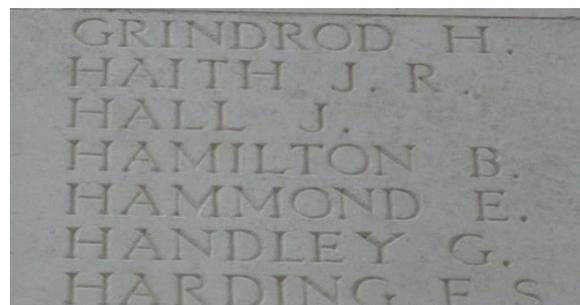
John Haith was born in Warter in 1892 and was the son of William and Mary Haith (nee Oxtoby).

Before the war John was a regular soldier in the Coldstream Guards. He lied about his age and said he was 18 years old in 1901 when in fact he was only 16. That year he was stationed in barracks at the guard's depot, Pirbright, Surrey. He served in the South African Campaign of 1901/2.

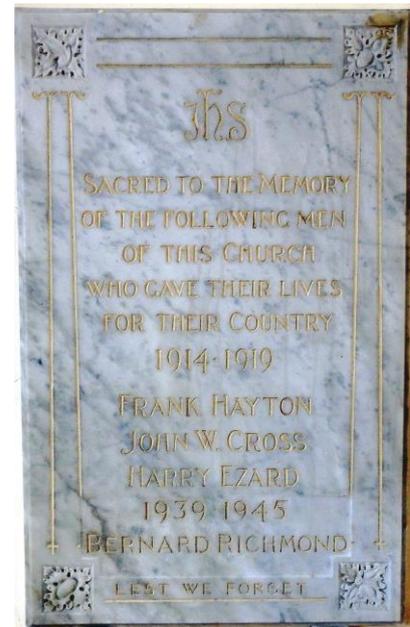
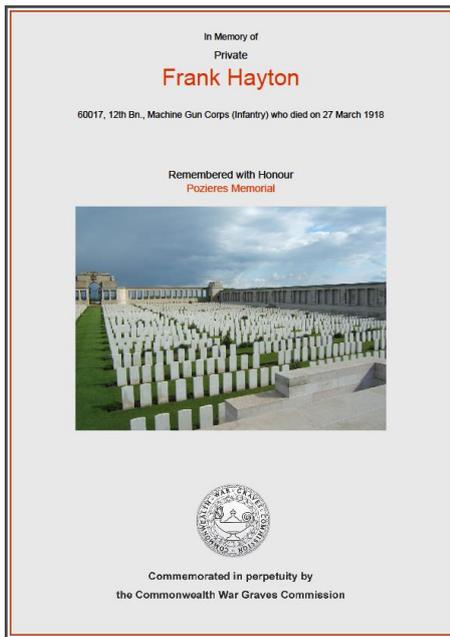
He left the army and began work at the East Riding Asylum, Walkington as a male attendant and at the outbreak of war he re-enlisted in the Coldstream Guards in Burnley. His wife Gertrude Mary (nee Brown) continued to live at Butt Lane in Beverley.

John was killed in action on 13th November, 1916 aged 34 years, during the battles of the Somme. He has no known grave and is remembered on The Thiepval Memorial (below) to the Missing in France, Pier & Face 7D & 8D, on the East Riding Memorial in Beverley Minster and on the Beverley War Memorial in Hengate, Beverley.

After his death his wife gave birth to their daughter.



Frank Hayton



Private – 60017: 12th Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

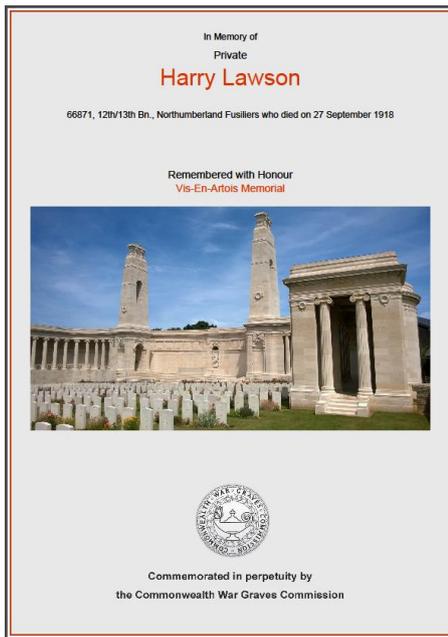
Frank Hayton was born in 1899. His father was Thomas Hayton, a farm labourer, and mother Sarah Ann Hayton; he had two brothers Thomas and Harold and a sister Mirium. He attended Walkington School. On leaving school, he worked for Mr. Cook at Broadgate Farm as third lad. He enlisted when only sixteen, and had been in France five months before being claimed by his parents as underage; immediately on attaining his 18th birthday he re-enlisted.

The news of his death was conveyed in a letter to his parents from his lieutenant who paid tribute to his gallantry and devotion to duty and to the esteem in which he was held. He was killed instantly by a shot through the heart as the Germans attacked Arras on 27th March 1918. He was 19 years of age.

Frank is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, Panel 90 to 93 (above), Picardie, France.

He is also commemorated on a plaque (above) in the Walkington Methodist Church along with John Cross, Harry Ezard and Bernard Richmond. The Haytons were Chapel people and several other members of the family are also remembered there.

Harry Lawson



Private – 66871: 12th / 13th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

Harry was born in Walkington; the 1911 census shows him living on East End with his father Roger, mother Ada, sister Kathleen and brother Francis. His father was the village joiner and wheelwright and in 1911 he was attending Walkington school and most probably sat next to Frank Hayton.

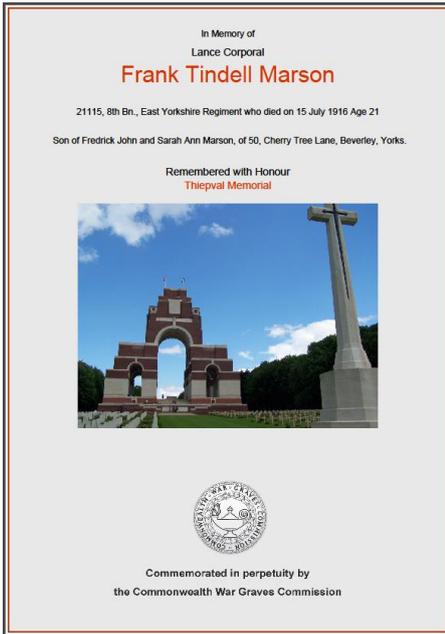
The Northumberland Fusiliers were often known as the 'fighting fifth' as the regiment was, until 1881, the Fifth Foot. The Northumberland Fusiliers raised no fewer than fifty one battalions for service in the Great War. This makes them the second largest after the London Regiment.

A sequence of allied offensives began with attacks by American and French armies on 26th September 1918 from Rhiems to Meuse: two British army's at Cambrai on 27th September and British, Belgium and French armies in Flanders on 28th and 29th September. These attacks eventually succeeded and the allies crossed the Canal du Nord at Masnieres, breaking through the Hindenburg Line, forcing the Germans back until they requested an armistice on 4th October 1918.

Harry died in the Battle du Nord, as part of the battle of the Hindenburg Line on 27th September 1918. He was 18 years of age.

His body was buried or destroyed in the battle and he is listed on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial to the Missing, Panel 3, Arras, France (above).

Frank Tindall Marson



Lance Corporal – 21115: 8th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

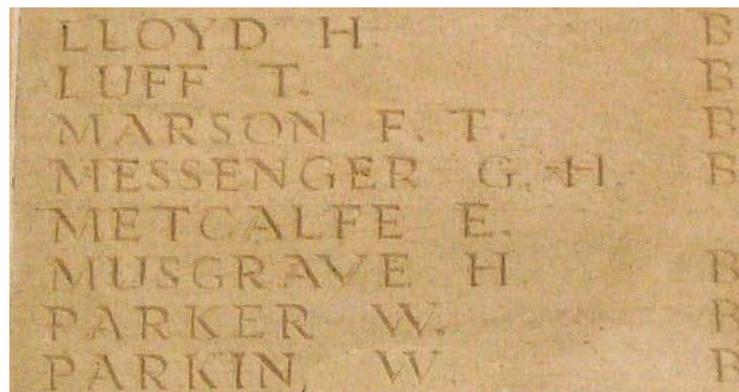
Frank's father Fred, mother Sarah Ann and seven brothers and sisters lived at 50 Cherry Tree Lane in Beverley. He worked as a chauffeur for Mr. A. Plimpton (father of Captain Robert Plimpton), at Walkington Park.

Frank enlisted into the 8th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, formed at Beverley as part of the 3rd new Army (K3). He celebrated his 21st birthday and a few days leave in Walkington before embarking for France; he was killed in action just two months later on 14th July 1916. He was 21 years of age.

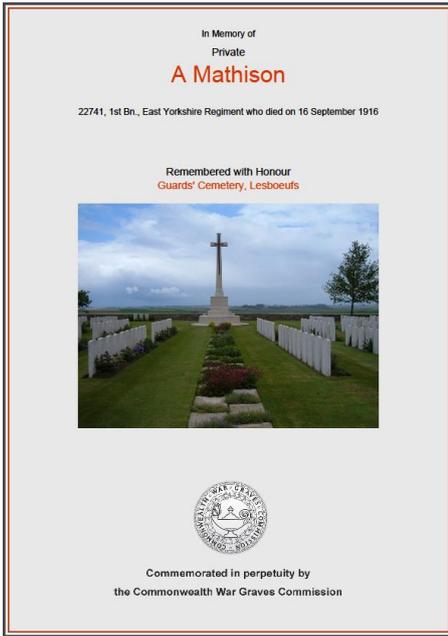
The 8th battalion was holding the Line with Longueval to their front at this time and took part in heavy fighting that cost them casualties of 19 officers and 440 men.

He has no known grave and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial (below) to the Missing on the Somme, Pier & Face 2C.

His brother William Tindall Marson, 5th Battalion King's Own Light Infantry was also killed in action on 27th March 1918 aged 19 years and is buried in Gommecourt British Cemetery No2, Hebuterne France.



Alan Mathison



Private – 22741: 1st Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

Alan was born in Walkington in 1895 and the 1911 census shows him living with his family at Towers farm (this is now Northlands farm). He attended Walkington School.

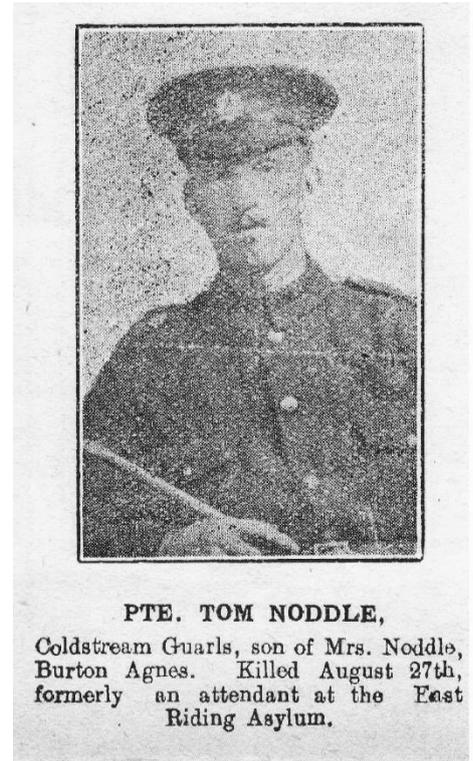
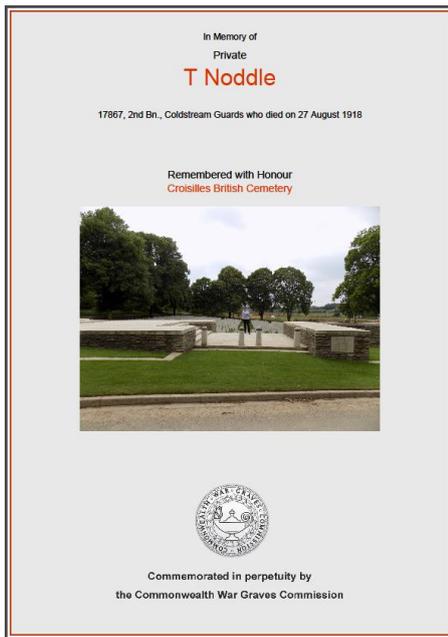
His father Frank, is listed as the farmer with his mother Hannah and five Mathison children; also on the farm were his grandmother, Margaret and a nurse, Jane Carter.

At the time Alan signed up he was residing in Hessle. He joined the 1st battalion of the East Yorkshire regiment. The Battalion, who were part of the 18th Brigade, 6th Division, had landed at St Nazaire on 10th September 1914. On the 26th November 1915 they transferred to 64th Brigade, 21st Division. In September 1916 the 21st Division took part in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15th to 22nd September 1916). Alan died of wounds on 16th September 1916, probably during this battle. He was 21 years of age.

Alan is buried in the Guards Cemetery, Les Boeufs, Albert, France - Grave VI.G.10.



Thomas Noddle



Private – 17867: 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards

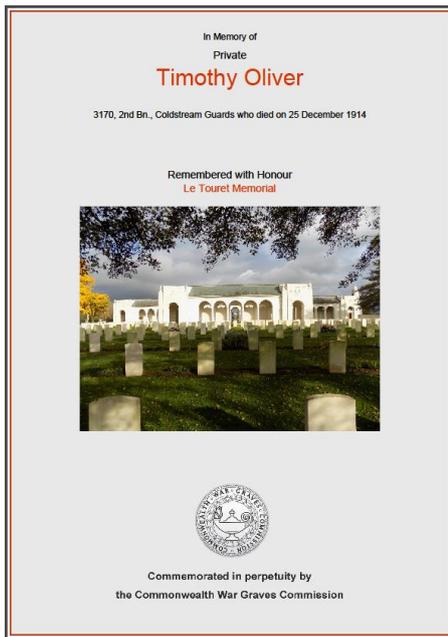
Tom was born in Burton Agnes and lived for a time in Harpham where his father was a shepherd. On the 1911 census he is working on John Hodgson's farm at Burton Agnes as a fifth lad.

The report of his death in the Beverley Guardian says that Tom was an attendant at the East Riding Asylum (later Broadgate Hospital) where his sister also worked and that is why he is commemorated on the Walkington War Memorial. His brothers Lance Corporal Noddle: Royal Army Medical Corp and Private Walter Noddle: Gordon Highlanders, were also both named in the Beverley Guardian as previously working at the asylum as attendants.

Tom was killed in action on 27th August, 1918 during the 2nd Battle of the Somme (probably at the Battle of Albert). He is commemorated on the East Riding Memorial, Beverley Minster.

He is buried in Croisilles British Cemetery, Grave IV.A.25. Arras, France.

John Timothy Oliver



Private – 3170: 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards

Timothy Oliver, born in 1882, was the son of John Oliver and Fanny Oliver; he had two brothers Thomas and Samuel and three sisters, Emily, Lavinia and Annie. He attended Walkington School. He married Jane Ann Claxton of Hull in 1904; Jane had been a packer on the ‘starch - blue line’ at Reckitt’s before she was married to Timothy.

In 1901 he was listed at St. George’s Barracks in London serving with the Coldstream Guards but by 1911 he was in the Durham Constabulary as a police constable. He would have been recalled at the beginning of the Great War and was part of the British Expeditionary Force sent to France at the outbreak of war in August 1914. He took part in the winter operations of 1914 and died of wounds received in the trenches on Christmas day, at the Battle of Givenchy. With him at this time was his cousin Sgt. T. Grant, (this was probably the son of Mr. T. Grant who is listed as gardener at Walkington Hall in the 1911 census.)

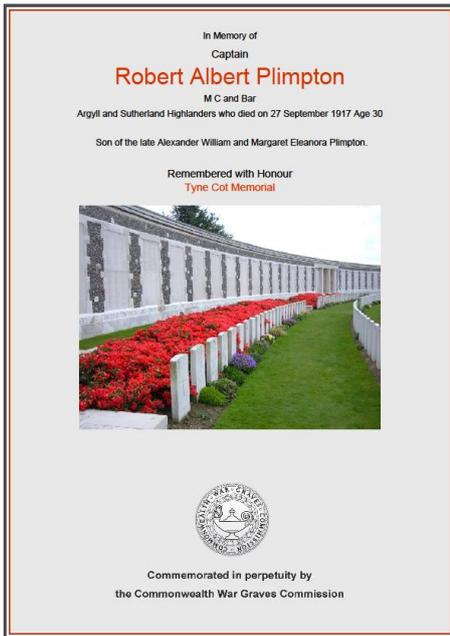
Timothy Oliver was the second man with Walkington connections to die in the War. He was 32 years of age and left five children under the age of seven.

He is mentioned in De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour and on the East Riding Memorial in the Beverley Minster. His body was destroyed in the battle and he is recorded on the Le Touret Memorial to the Missing, Panel 2 & 3, Bethune, France.

There are numerous Olivers buried in Walkington churchyard, Timothy’s photograph appeared in the Beverley Guardian for January 1915. He is listed under the roll of honour where it states he is from one of the oldest families in the East Riding. The Beverley Guardian confirmed the prevalence of the Oliver family with an article headed “*Seventeen lads with the Colours*”



Robert Albert Plimpton



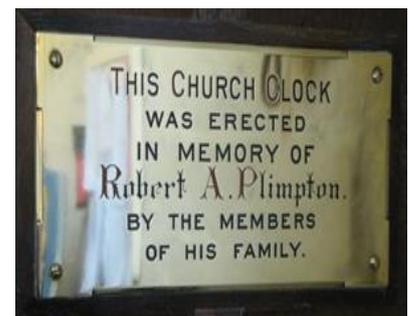
Captain: Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Robert Plimpton was born in Cottingham. He was the son of Alexander Plimpton and Margaret who came from Scotland and that was probably the reason Robert enlisted in a Scottish regiment. He farmed at Rectory Farm, Walkington and had two brothers, Kelburn Archibald and Alexander Ashley and two sisters, Eleanora and Winifred. The Plimpton family initially lived at Walkington Park (the big house behind the wall at the top of Kirk Lane) but later moved to East End.

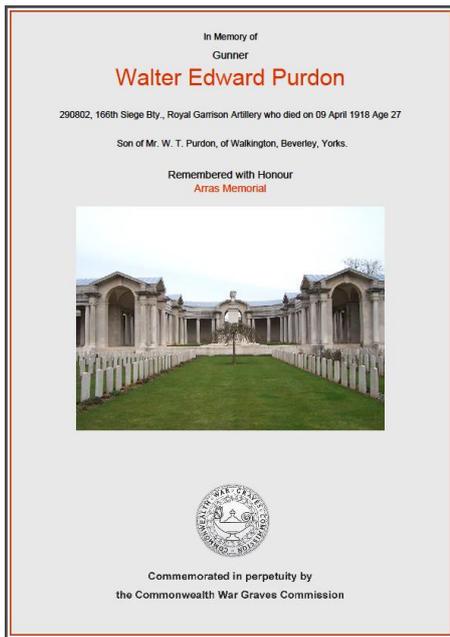
Robert lost his life when he was shot by a sniper at Tower Hamlets during the Battle of Passchendaele which was part of the Third Ypres offensive. He was 30 years of age. His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Panel 141 to 143, Passchendaele Ridge, Belgium, which contains the names of 35,000 men whose graves are unknown. He is also commemorated on the East Riding Memorial in Beverley Minster, and on the Beverley War Memorial, Hengate: there is also a memorial window in St. Mathew's Church, Rugby.

In December 1916 whilst serving as Lieutenant he was awarded the Military Cross "*for conspicuous gallantry in action*". He was promoted to Captain and in January 1917 he was awarded a Bar to the Military Cross "*for gallantry in action*".

There is a plaque to his memory in Walkington All Hallows Church and a plaque on the belfry door stating that the church clock was erected in his memory (below).



Walter Edward Purdon



Gunner – 290802: 166th Siege Artillery: Royal Garrison Artillery

Walter was born in Howden in 1894, he was the son of Walter Purdon of Howden who was a Waggoner, and Ellen Davy of Walkington. Others in the family were Edith, Mirium, Maud, Herbert, Gladys and Charles.

In 1911 Walter was working as a Waggoner for William Danby at Duncan Wold Farm Cherry Burton.

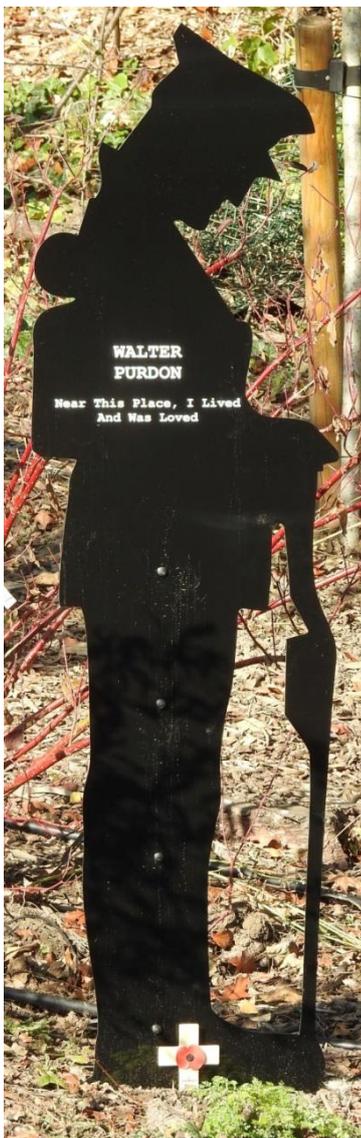
He enlisted aged 24 on 19th December 1914 into the Hull Heavy Battery.

The Beverley Guardian reports in the autumn of 1915 that *'Driver Purdon, Hull Heavy Battery stationed at Hedon sustained a nasty accident through being kicked by a horse. After three weeks in hospital he had been allowed seven days sick leave which he is spending with his parents. Driver Purdon is, we are glad to learn, going on well'*.

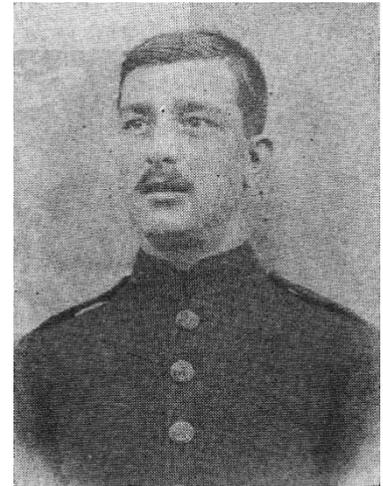
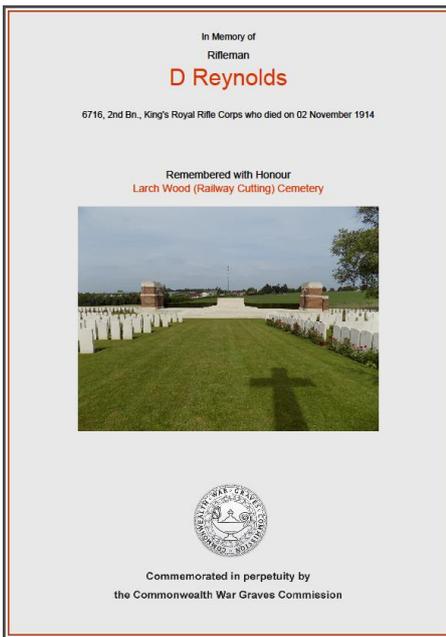
The Royal Garrison Artillery (R.G.A.) developed from the fortress-based artillery located on British coasts from 1914 when the army possessed very little heavy artillery; it grew into a very large component of the British Forces. It was armed with heavy calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line and had immense destructive power. From 1914 the R.G.A. were involved in many battles. Men like Walter Purdon, with the experience of managing horses would have been much sort after in regiments using these big beasts to haul heavy guns into place.

Walter died on 9th April, 1918, aged 28, in Flanders during the German Offensive.

He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 1 France. (above)



Daniel Reynolds



Rifleman – 6716: 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps

Daniel Reynolds was a regular soldier enlisting in 1905 at the age of 19. Before that time he had been working with his brothers Harry and Vic at the Whiting works at the top of the Westwood. The family lived in Flemingate, Beverley. In 1911, Daniel and his brother Harry were stationed in Hull; another brother Vic served in the Royal Army Medical Corp.

The book published following the closure of Broadgate Hospital, *'Across the Westwood, the life and times of Broadgate Hospital'*, compiled by Robert Curry in 1991, lists a Mr. D. Reynolds, attendant, missing presumed killed. It is probable that this is the Daniel Reynolds listed on the Walkington War Memorial and the reason why he is commemorated at Walkington.

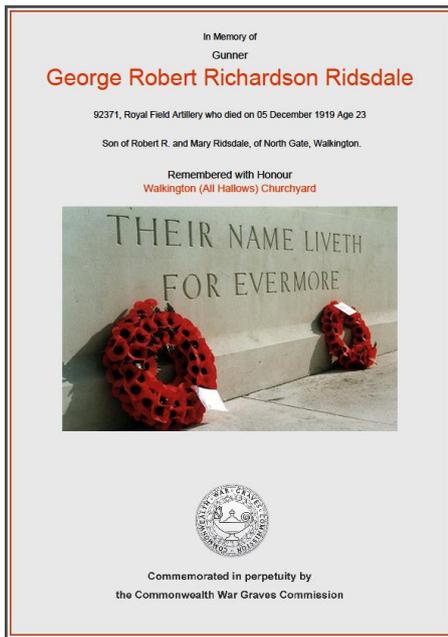
The King's Royal Rifle Corp landed at Le Harve on 13th August, 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force. The allies sought to halt the German advancement resulting in the lengthy, and costly siege warfare as the entrenched lines proved impossible to crack. The first phase of the war on the western front was just beginning.

Daniel Reynolds died on 2nd November, 1914 aged 27 years, in the first battle of Ypres, making him the first soldier on the Walkington Memorial to die. His two brothers, Vic and Harry also died and are commemorated on the War Memorial on Hengate, in Beverley.

Daniel Reynolds is buried in the Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery, Grave IV.D.9. West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.



George Robert Ridsdale



Gunner – 92371: Royal Field Artillery

George was born in 1897, in Walkington, the son of Robert R. and Mary Ridsdale, Market Gardeners of Northgate Walkington; he had a younger brother John Ridsdale and two older sisters, Doris, who married George Davy, and Mary. He attended Walkington School.

In 1911 George was listed aged 14 years as a farmhand.

The Royal Field Artillery was the most numerous arm of the artillery; the horse drawn Royal Field Artillery was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers, deployed close to the front line and was reasonably mobile. Farm lads would be very useful in this capacity, as they understood how to use horses.

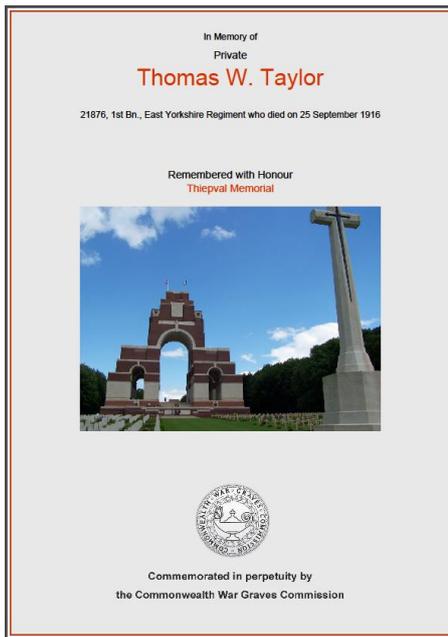
George died just after the finish of the war having been severely affected by gas. He died at home which was Westfield House, this house was just behind where Fern Cottage is now, at the far western edge of the village and he is buried in Walkington Churchyard in a grave (above) with the insignia of the Royal Field Artillery, which is inscribed:

**92371 Gunner G. R. R. Ridsdale
R F Artillery
5th December 1919 aged 23
Worthy of remembrance**

There are many Ridsdale,s buried in the churchyard and relatives living in the East Riding.

The use of air borne poisonous chemicals was responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths and injury, victims lived truncated disabled lives in the post war era and this contributed to the banning of chemical weapons in 1925.

Thomas William Taylor



Private – 21876: 1st Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

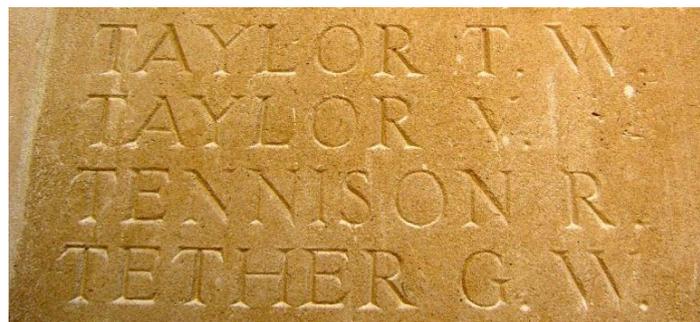
Thomas was born in Walkington in 1888 and attended Walkington School. He was the only son of Robert and Rachel Taylor; Robert was an agricultural labourer whose family had lived in the village for most of the nineteenth century.

Thomas was to die on 25th September, 1916 during the Battle of Morval, as part of the Somme offensive. He was 28 years of age.

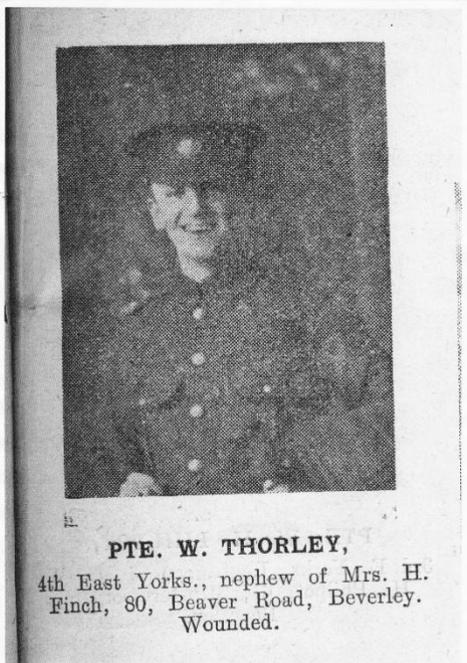
The accounts given by the East Yorkshire Regiments website gives a vivid description of what life was like for Thomas Taylor. *'Having broken through the prepared lines of German defence, the British now faced a new set of challenges as it approached the slopes of the Transloy Ridges. Fighting was, as before, severe but gradually the British chipped away and pushed forward. The weather began to turn autumnal, bringing rain, making the battle field increasingly difficult and stretching men to limits beyond physical endurance.'* Roll call revealed the appalling losses suffered throughout the day, only 5 officers and 118 other ranks

The grave of his parents Robert and Rachel Taylor in Walkington churchyard shows that they died within 24 hours of each other in 1933. No doubt after sustaining each other in their grief for 16 years. Also commemorated on the gravestone is Thomas, their only child.

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial – (Pier and Face 2C), Picardie, France.



Walter Thorley



Private – 2082: 4th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

Private – 208475: 14th Leicestershire Regiment

Walter was the nephew of Mrs. H. Finch of 80 Beaver Road Beverley. Walter was 17 years old at the outbreak of war and joined the army on 18th November 1914, serving with the 4th Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment.

In January 1916 it was reported to the Beverley Guardian, by his aunty Mrs H Finch, that Walter had been wounded. A report in the Beverley Guardian in October 1916, regarding a commemorative service for Private H. N. Duggleby, also says that Walter Thorley and four other soldiers from Walkington have already given their lives for their country. Therefore villagers believed that Walter had died after being wounded in January 1916. Thus Walter Thorley's name appears on the Walkington War Memorial. After being wounded he was awarded the Silver War Badge, known as the 'wound badge' as it was given to service men who had been wounded and alerted civilians to the fact that a man was an ex-service man. Many men not in uniform suffered verbal abuse at the hands of women; wearing a wound badge indicated that they had 'done their bit.' and relocated to the 14th Leicestershire Regiment with whom he served until September 1919. He was also awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. As far as we know he never returned to Walkington. He married Gertrude Whitaker in 1938 and in 1939 the Household Index shows them living in Terry Street, Hull Walter was employed as a labourer. He died in December 1969 aged 72.

Harold Wadsworth

Private: Royal Army Medical Corp: (R.A.M.C.)



Harry was born in 1887 at Holme on the Wolds. On the 1891 census he was recorded as aged 5 years and living at Holme on the Wolds with his father Titus and mother Emma Wadsworth; also at home were his brothers and sisters; Jane aged 22, Fred aged 12, Charles aged 10, Annie aged 9, Robert aged 7, Henry aged 5 and Thomas aged 2 years.

The minutes of the visiting committee of the East Riding Asylum, Walkington for 27th July, 1917 record that H. Wadsworth attendant had joined the army and left the service. Later he is recorded as having joined the R.A.M.C.

Harry's health was not good and it is probable that he was not sent abroad for he died in 1918, aged 33 years from pulmonary tuberculosis. He had married Florence Garner in October, 1917; Florence, who was born in Driffield, had also been employed at The East Riding asylum, as a dining hall maid.

He is commemorated in Beverley Minster (below) and his death was announced in the Beverley Guardian in Memoriam column:

'In loving memory of our dear brother Harry Wadsworth

Late of Dalton Holme who died on 15th March 1918.

Christ will link the broken chain, closer when we meet again,

From his loving brothers Fred and Tom.'



Beverley Minster
East Riding Memorial
Chapel – Wall Panel 15



Stephenson F.
Thames T.
Tidmarsh A.
Tune H.D.
Wadsworth H.
Wilson J.H.
Wright C.