

# **WALKINGTON**

## **REMEMBERS**



### **A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN ON THE WALKINGTON WAR MEMORIAL**

**(Part 2)**

## 7. World War 2 Summary

Known as one of the most brutal conflicts in recent history the Second World War wreaked havoc for six years involving 113 countries from six continents. Starting in 1939, the Allied forces – mainly Britain, Russia, and the USA – sought to stop Nazi Germany in its conquest for European domination. By 1945, Western Europe had been ravaged, an entire race of people had come close to eradication, and the dynamic of power in many participating countries was to change forever.

Having been appointed to Chancellor of Germany in 1933, Adolf Hitler led the Nazi party with an ideology of racial superiority, nationalism, and destruction of all who opposed them. The aftermath of WW1 – specifically, the Treaty of Versailles – meant that Germany was limited in what it could do on a diplomatic stage and, during the 1930s, the Nazis broke a series of rules that had been laid down in 1919. This caused the Allied countries to become concerned and, when the Nazis invaded Poland in September 1939, France and Britain declared war on Germany.

What followed was six years of turmoil. One of Hitler's key aims as Fuhrer of Germany was the destruction of the Jewish race and, even before the war began, the Nazis had implemented a number of laws that discriminated against the Jews. Things became gradually worse with the Nazis establishing Jewish ghettos in Poland in 1940 and the concentration camps in 1942. It is estimated that 6 million Jews were killed during the reign of Hitler. Other social minorities were targeted including homosexuals, communists, Romani and people with disabilities.

The battles of WW2 were fought at sea, in the air, as well as on land. Some of the most well-known battles include the Battle of Britain (1940), Stalingrad (1942-3), El Alamein (1942-3), Iwo Jima (1945), and the Battle of the Bugle (1944-5). The D-Day landings in June 1944 are considered by many people to be a turning point in the course of the war. By 1944 the Nazi attack on the Soviet Union was proving unsuccessful and the Soviets were bringing the Eastern front closer to Germany, meaning that the final year of the war saw Hitler stop fighting his own offense, and switching to tactics of defence. By May 1945, Hitler had committed suicide and the Nazi regime had collapsed. Japan surrendered in August 1945 and the Allied forces had achieved victory. Approximately 73 million people are thought to have died during the conflict, and the economic repercussions were felt across the participating countries for decades after peace was declared.

During the conflict 8 men commemorated on the Walkington Memorial lost their lives. **Kenneth Howdle**, (Aircraftman First Class), was the first to die in May 1940. He was struck by an aircraft propeller at RAF Church Fenton. He was 19 years of age. During the Battle, Retreat and Evacuation of Dunkirk **Thomas Bernard Richmond**, (Lance Corporal), **George White**, (Gunner), and **Donald Hall**, (Captain), lost their lives. **George Raymond Ellerington**, (Sergeant Wireless Operator / Air Gunner) was killed when his plane crashed during a reconnaissance flight while serving with 206 Squadron, RAF Coastal Command. **Bob Nicholson** (Air Gunner) serving with 15 Squadron Royal Air Volunteer Reserve, was killed in a plane crash in Denmark. The story of this loss can be researched using the link <https://www.macrobobertsreply.net/> . **Joseph Gray** (Merchant Navy, Ordinary Seaman) was lost at sea serving aboard the SS Empire Leopard en-route from Newfoundland to Avonmouth after it was torpedoed by the German submarine U-402. **Ernest Arthur Mincham** (Warrant Officer – Royal Australian Airforce), died in Liberator FK923 which was shot down by the German submarine U-539.

## 8. WW2 Roll of Honour – in Alphabetical Order

George Raymond Ellerington

Joseph Gray

Donald Hall

Kenneth Howdle

Ernest Arthur Mincham

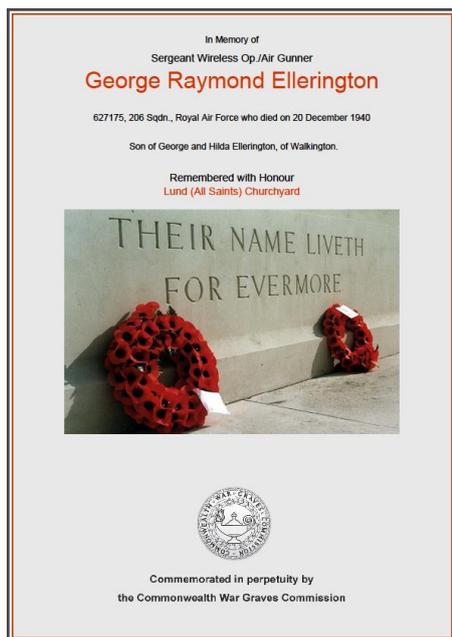
Bob Nicholson

Thomas Bernard Richmond

George White



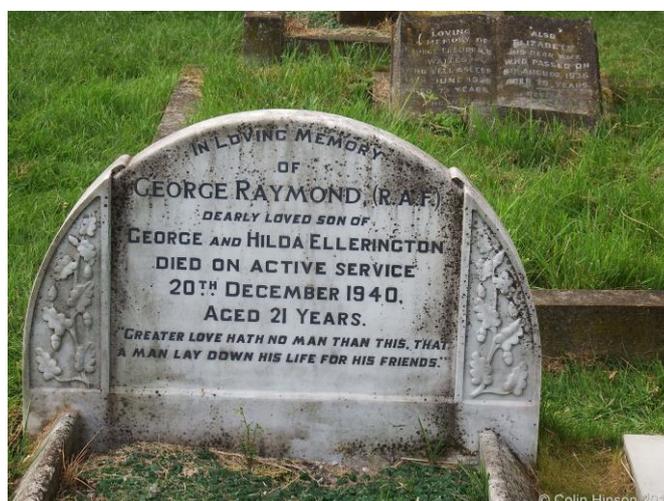
# George Raymond Ellerington



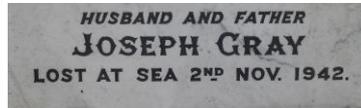
## Sergeant Wireless Op/Air Gunner – 627175: Royal Air Force – Coastal Command

George was born in 1919. His parents were George and Hilda Ellerington who at one time were the landlord and landlady of the Duke of Wellington public house at Lund. At the time of his death his parents were staying with their daughter Auriel, wife of Mr Bethel Taylor the headmaster of Walkington School on Northgate. George and Auriel had another brother Keith whom fellow Walkingtonians can remember attending Walkington school during the war.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1940 206 Squadron were engaged on reconnaissance flying a Hudson Vx-EN7333 which crashed at 05.00 hours. All the crew perished. George was 21 years of age. He is buried in St Mary's Churchyard (below) in Lund, East Yorkshire.



# Joseph Gray

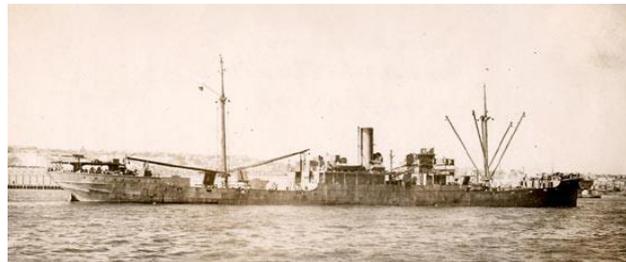


## Ordinary Seaman: Merchant Navy

Joseph Gray was born in Beverley in 1901, his parents were James and Mary and he had five brothers and sisters. In 1922 he married Annie Oliver from Walkington, daughter of Richard and Ann Oliver. Annie had six brothers and sisters.

Joseph and Annie Gray had three sons, Ronald, Clifford and Kenneth. Sadly Annie died aged 25 years in 1929 and her little son Kenneth died a few months later. All are commemorated in Walkington churchyard along with Joseph (above).

Joseph remarried Alice Wade and they had a further two children Terry and Mary. As soon as war was declared he volunteered for the Merchant Navy.

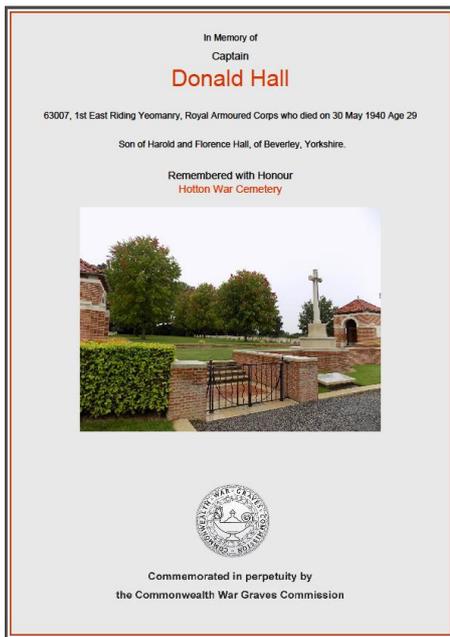


In 1942 he was serving on the S.S. Empire Leopard (above), a steam merchant vessel of 5,676 tons. She had been built in Seattle in 1917 and was given to Britain in 1940. On the night of 2 November 1942 the S.S. Empire Leopard en route from Canada to Avonmouth was sailing in convoy off the coast of Newfoundland, 500 miles east of Bell Isle. She was carrying a cargo of zinc concentrates and munitions; unbeknown to them they were tailed by a U-Boat. Captain Seigfried von Forster, on the U-402 fired two torpedoes at the convoy and sank the Empire Leopard and the Empire Antelope.

Of the crew of 41 on the Empire Leopard 37 perished including Joseph. He was 41 years of age.

He is commemorated on the War Memorial (left) to the Merchant Navy, Tower Hill, London.

# Donald Hall



## **Captain – 63007: East Riding Yeomanry (Royal Armoured Corp)**

Captain Hall's parents were Harold and Florence Hall and he was the younger brother of Harold Watson Hall who lived at Walkington Hall. His Grandfather was George Hall who was the Mayor of Hull in 1892. George Hall was a farmer in Holderness and a butcher in Hull, his mother was also from farming stock.

Towards the end of May 1940 the 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade consisting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Gloucester Regiment, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, the 1<sup>st</sup> East Riding Yeomanry and some Royal Artillery anti-tank guns was holding Cassel as a rear guard for the withdrawal of the British and French army from Dunkirk. Donald was the second in command of C Squadron of the Yeomanry.

On 28<sup>th</sup> May orders were sent to 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade to withdraw but they did not arrive until early on the 29<sup>th</sup> May and it was not possible to withdraw until 2100 hours on the 29<sup>th</sup> May. It was 10 miles to the Dunkirk perimeter and the East Riding Yeomanry as a `recce` regiment, were the last to leave at 2400 hours. A route had been reconnoitred earlier to Watou but the speed of the retreat was very slow and it was daylight by the time the Yeomanry reached Watou. Which-ever way the Yeomanry went they ran into German troops. Donald Hall was killed attempting to reach Houterque to the north west of Watou. He was 29 years of age.

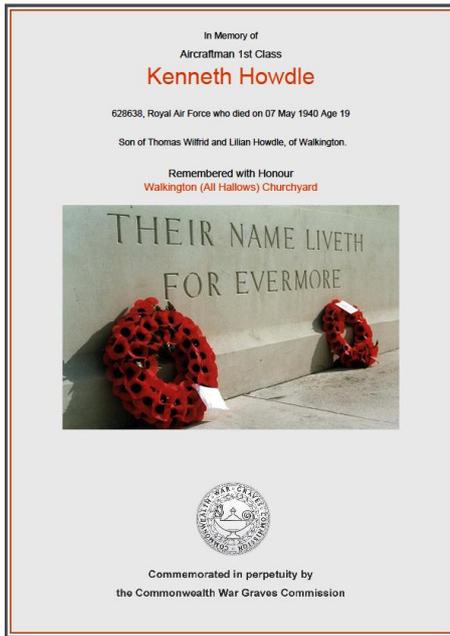
He is buried in Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Grave IX.B.9

The remnants of the Regiment who managed to return to Tidmouth were 7 officers and 230 men. The rest perished or were taken prisoner.

The first bell, in All Hallows Tower is dedicated to Donald Hall. The bell carries the inscription *`To the Glory of God and in happy memory of Donald Hall 1911-1940. Thus the Gods wrought – they wove a thread of death for some that others in the years to come might have a song. Presented by his family AD 1958`*.



# Kenneth Howdle



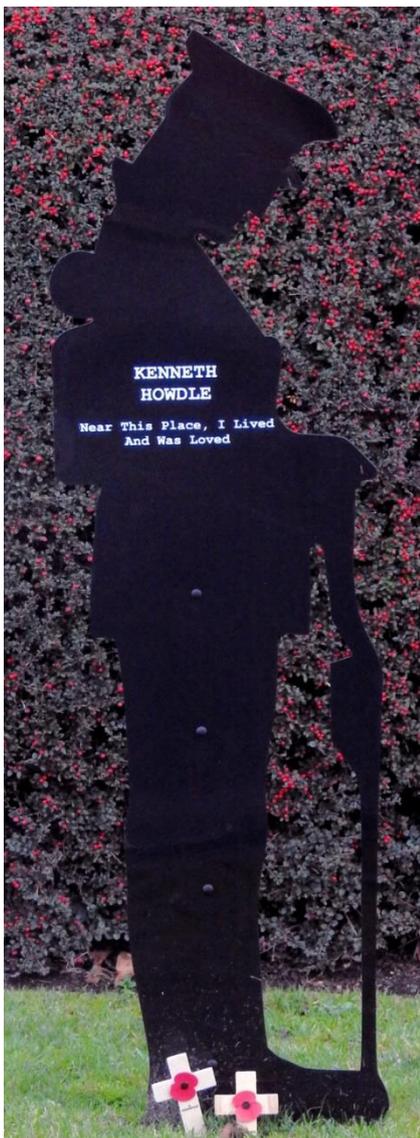
## **Aircraftman 1<sup>st</sup> Class – 628638: Royal Air Force**

Kenneth was working on a farm at North Cave when he joined the RAF. His parents Thomas and Lillian Howdle lived at White Cottage (now demolished), this was situated in the wood just past what is now Heath House Stables as you come over the cattle grid off the Westwood onto the Newbald road. There was a large family of Howdles, for Ken had 12 brothers and sisters.

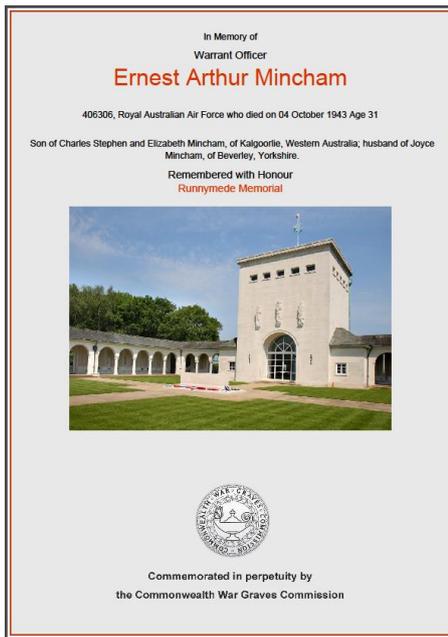
On the night of 7<sup>th</sup> May 1940 Kenneth was on duty at RAF Church Fenton, near York, working as a fireman. Part of his job was to marshal the aircraft into the hangar ready to be refuelled and back into the air as quickly as possible. On the night of 7<sup>th</sup> May the enemy were attacking Church Fenton in order to put our fighter planes out of action. It was blackout and the lighting in the hangars very dim. One aircraft had landed and Ken was marshalling it to where it would be refuelled, he was busy watching the pilot of this aircraft and failed to notice that the hangar crew had started up the engine of the next aircraft ready for it to go up; it was ticking over and making less sound than the one he was bringing in. Ken was walking backwards and being unaware of this plane he got too close and was struck by the propeller.

He was taken to York hospital and his parents received a telegram saying 'your son has been stuck by an airscrew and is seriously ill in York hospital'. Before they set off for York they received another telegram saying 'hurry your son is fading fast'. Unfortunately Ken passed away before they reached the hospital. He was 19 years of age.

He is buried in Walkington All Hallows graveyard.



# Ernest Arthur Mincham



Liberator FK923 in which Ernest Mincham flew on his last mission

## **Warrant Officer – 406306: Royal Australian Air Force**

Ernest Mincham was the son of Charles Stephen and Elizabeth Mincham of Coolgardie, Western Australia. He was married to Joyce Mincham (nee Ashton), daughter of Louis Ashton, one-time landlord of the Ferguson Fawsitt Arms.

He was a member of the crew of the Liberator FK923 (above), part of 120 Squadron which was on detachment from Ballykelly to Reykjavik, Iceland.

On 4 October 1943 FK923 was escorting Convoy ON204 when the crew sighted U-boat U 539 on the surface. When FL923 attacked U539 stayed on the surface and returned fire. German Records say:-

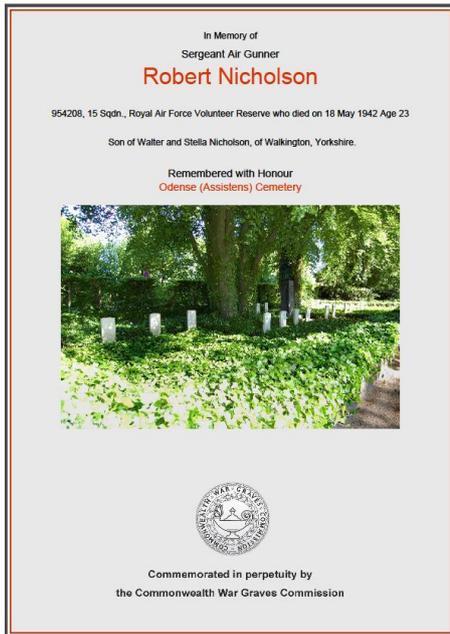
*"The Liberator, which was mistakenly identified as a Lancaster, was sighted at 1123 hrs when 7-8000 metres away, approaching at an altitude of 800 metres. All the boats flak guns which consisted of two twin and one quadruple 200-mm, were immediately manned and fire was opened. Despite heavy flak the aircraft circled, drawing slowly closer to the U-boat until at 1138 hrs it ran into the attack replying to the U-boats fire with cannon when at a range of 1000 metres. Although hit several times, the aircraft pressed home the attack, dropping six depth charges that fell ahead of the port bow at a distance of between 10 and 159 metres from the U-boat, which was shaken violently.*

*Both the aircraft's starboard engines were seen to have caught fire and shortly afterwards it came down in the sea, exploding on impact with the water. On assumption that none of the aircrew would escape from the wreckage, the CO ordered the U-boat to dive so that a proper inspection of damage, which turned out to be relatively minor, could be made. One of U 539's crew was slightly wounded"*

All eight of the Liberator's crew were killed. Ernest Mincham was 31 years of age. He is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial – Panel 191



# Bob Nicholson



## **Air Gunner – 954208: Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve**

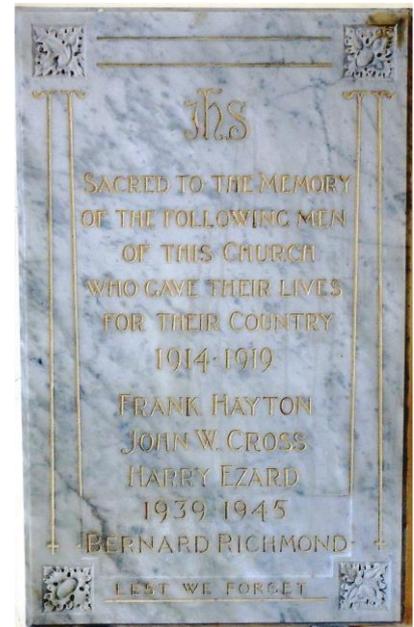
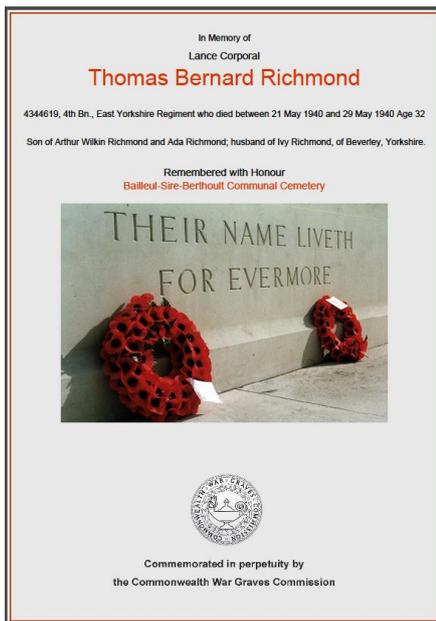
Bob Nicholson`s parents, Walter and Stella, were the landlord and landlady of the Dog and Duck Inn, Walkington at the time of Bob`s death in May 1942. After they left the Dog and Duck they went to live at Cosy Cottage before moving to Willerby. Bob had attended the Boulevard school in Hull and was employed at the Hull Savings Bank before joining up at the beginning of the war.

He was based at RAF Wyton. On the night of 17/18 May 1942 Bob was part of the crew of the Stirling Bomber W7531 LS-F named “MacRobert`s Reply”. The Stirling had been shelled by the German cruiser `Prinz Eugen` and came down near Middlefart in Denmark. There was only one survivor.

The crashed aircraft had gouged out of the ground a huge rock and the local people immediately laid small flowers on the rock. It stands today guardian over the crater, and is still the focus of the memorial service that is held in May each year. A plaque mounted on the stone (below left) is engraved with the names of the crew who died. Bob is buried in Odense (Assistens) Cemetery Denmark (below right) – Grave BD 355. He was 23 years of age.



# Thomas Bernard Richmond



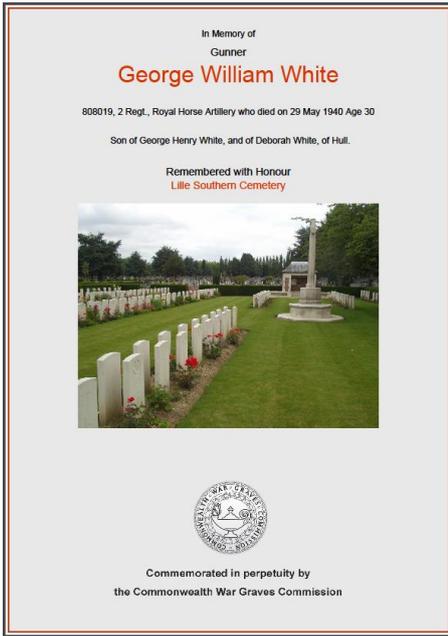
## **Lance Corporal – 4344619: 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment**

Bernard's mother Ada was born in Walkington but her maiden name was not known at the time of compiling this book. She married Arthur Richmond from Beverley in 1907 and on the 1911 census they were living on Clarmont Avenue in Hull with two children, Bernard aged three, who had been born in Walkington and James aged six months born in Hull. Bernard married Ivy Porter from Beverley in 1930 and they had two daughters Valerie and Vivien who are remembered living in the cottages near the pond on East End. Bernard worked in Walkington for 'Tailor' Cross in the house next door to the Chapel known as Red House.

In 1940 the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion East York's were fighting the Germans as the enemy pushed them back to the coast at Dunkirk. The Germans for some reason halted the attack which inadvertently allowed the British forces time to retreat to the beaches at Dunkirk and the subsequent evacuation took place between 27<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> June 1940. 338,226 soldiers were evacuated, but 68,000 soldiers were lost in the French campaign. Bernard Richmond was one of them. His CWGC Certificate lists him as having "*died between 21<sup>st</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> May 1940 Age 32*"

He is buried in Baillieux-Sire-Berthoult Communal Cemetery - Grave #7 and commemorated on a tablet (above) in the Walkington Methodist Church along with Frank Hayton, John Cross and Harry Ezard.

# George White



## **Gunner – 808019: Royal Horse Artillery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment**

George was born in Welton in 1910, the son of George Henry and Deborah White. His father who had been born in Middleton, was a farm labourer living at Rose Cottage, Braffords Farm, Ripplingham. His mother had been born in Cottingham.

The RHA 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment moved to France on 21 October 1939 and was in position at La Basée as GHQ troops by the end of the month. It went into action on 10 May at Louvain to cover the cavalry screen. It moved to the Dendue at Nossecten on 16 May under the 15th/19th Hussars and then marched to Eekent. On 20 May, it covered the withdrawal of 3rd Division to Duttignies and then went into action on the Escaut. It withdrew from Dunkirk on 31 May 1940 for England. George died on the 29th May 1940, two days before the evacuation. He was 30 years of age.

It is possible that his parents had moved farms and were working on a farm at Walkington at the time of his death, but this is speculation.

George is buried in Lille Southern Cemetery, Plot 5, Row E, Grave 18.



## **9. The Korean War Summary**

World War II divided Korea into a Communist northern half and an American-occupied southern half, divided at the 38th parallel. The Korean War (1950-1953) began when the North Korean Communist army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded non-Communist South Korea. As Kim Il-Sung's North Korean army, armed with Soviet tanks, quickly overran South Korea, the United States came to South Korea's aid. General Douglas MacArthur, who had been overseeing the post-WWII occupation of Japan, commanded the US forces which now began to hold off the North Koreans at Pusan, at the southernmost tip of Korea. Although Korea was not strategically essential to the United States, the political environment at this stage of the Cold War was such that policymakers did not want to appear "soft on Communism." Nominally, the US intervened as part of a "police action" run by a UN (United Nations) international peace-keeping force; in actuality, the UN was simply being manipulated by US and NATO anti-Communist interests.

With the US, UN, and South Korean (ROK) forces pinned against the sea at Pusan, MacArthur orchestrated a daring amphibious assault on Inchon, a port on the western coast of Korea. Having made this landing, MacArthur crushed the North Korean army in a pincer movement and recaptured Seoul, the capital of South Korea. Instead of being satisfied with his rapid re-conquest of South Korea, MacArthur crossed the 38TH Parallel and pursued the North Korean army all the way to the northernmost provinces of North Korea. Afraid that the US was interested in taking North Korea as a base for operations against Manchuria, the People's Republic of China secretly sent an army across the Yalu River. This Chinese army attacked the US/UN/ROK forces. Only after the appointment of Lt. General Matthew Ridgway as commander of ground forces did American morale improve and the initiative begin to swing against the Chinese Communists.

Although President Truman hoped to end the war quickly and pressed MacArthur to be more tactful, the brilliant strategist went against presidential orders and continued spouting incendiary lines about his hopes to reunify Korea. After gaining the support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), Truman relieved MacArthur of command. The move was extremely unpopular in America; MacArthur was perceived as a popular war hero. Only the support of the JCS saved Truman from impeachment after the firing.

Ridgway took MacArthur's command and held off the Communists with strong fortifications and entrenchments just north of the 38TH Parallel, sending occasional offensives against the Iron Triangle, the Communists staging area for attacks into South Korea. Peace negotiations dragged on at Kaesong, then moved and continued to drag at Panmunjom through 1951 and 1952. The US tried using strategic bombing to intimidate the Communists into negotiating a peace treaty, but they wouldn't budge, particularly on the issue of POW (Prisoner of War) repatriation. Neither side wanted to appear weak, and so the talks went on, occasionally breaking down for months. Only after Eisenhower, who was a war hero and was unafraid of Republican criticism (since he himself was a Republican), became President, could the US make substantial concessions to the Communists. In 1953 a peace treaty was signed at Panmunjom that ended the Korean War, returning Korea to a divided status essentially the same as before the war. Neither the war nor its outcome did much to lessen the era's Cold War tension.

During this conflict the last name inscribed on the Walkington Memorial lost his life. **Norman W Sharp** (Corporal – Duke of Wellington – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion) was killed in May 1953 during The Battle of the Hook.

10. The Korean War Roll of Honour

Norman W Sharp



# Norman William Sharp



## Corporal – 22583514: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Duke of Wellington Regiment

Norman Sharp was born in Hornsea on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 1930 and came to live in Walkington when he was 14 years old. His father worked as a groom for Mr. Leslie Crooks at Uplands, Little Weighton Road.

Norman enjoyed playing football and he is one of the `Lads` playing the `Dads` on the photograph of the 1950/51 season which is on display in the village hall. This was the year before he was called up to serve his national service. Prior to this he had been employed by the building firm of Constables in Beverley.

He joined the Duke of Wellington Regiment and was sent to war in Korea. On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1953 the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (the "Dukes") relieved the Black Watch on a ridge known as "The Hook". Over the next 2 weeks they were under constant sniper, mortar and artillery fire. Over 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May when engaged in fierce fighting the Dukes suffered 15 killed in action, 95 wounded and 32 missing. The Chinese forces outnumbered the Dukes 5 to 1. The Dukes repelled their attacks and by 03:30 hours they had secured their position. It was during this action on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1953 that Corporal Norman Sharp was killed. He was 22 years of age.

Norman Sharp is commemorated on the Walkington War Memorial and on a plaque in the Beverley Memorial Gardens (left). He is buried in the United Nations War memorial in Pusan, Korea (Section 39, Row 10, Grave 3422).

Sharps Lane, Walkington off Little Weighton Road is named after him.

**In addition to the above I have also included the following who had a Walkington connection and who also gave their lives for King and Country in WW1 but are not listed on the Walkington memorial:**

**James Gilbank**

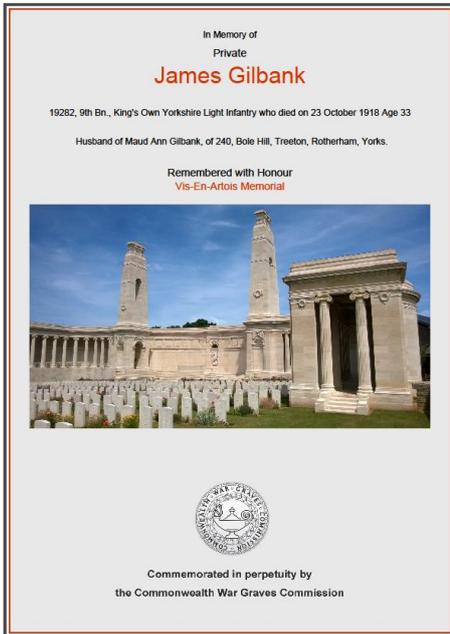
**Bethel Hayton**

**Richard Johnson**

**George Langham**

**Henry Wright Taylor**

# James Gilbank



GILBANK, Pte. James, 19282. 9th Bn. King's Own Yorkshire Light Inf. 23rd Oct., 1918. Age 33. Husband of Maud Ann Gilbank, of 240, Bole Hill, Treeton, Rotherham, Yorks.

## Private – 19282: 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

James was born in Walkington to James Gilbank Snr and Annie Gilbank. James Snr had also been born in Walkington and Annie was born in Cottingham. On the 1881 census the family were living on West End with daughters Emily and Clara and son John. Also living with them was Thomas Gilbank the father of James Snr who came from Kilnwick.

James Snr. died in 1884 leaving Annie a widow responsible for 3 children and pregnant with James. They continued to live in Walkington despite Annie marrying a coal miner from Treeton, Rotherham in 1890.

By the 1901 census the family had moved to Bole Hill, Treeton. James Gilbank and his brothers all found employment in mining and in 1904 he married Maud Ann Shaw at Whiston York.

The 1911 census shows them living at 240 Bole Hill Treeton; they had three children William, George and James.

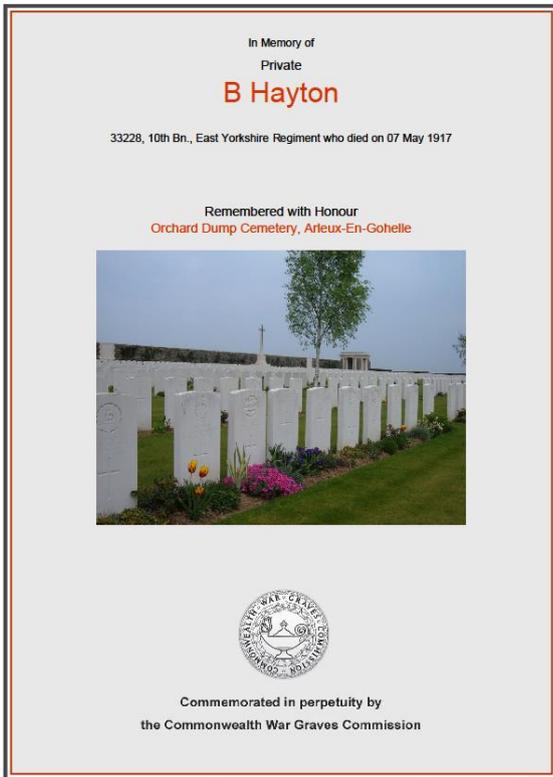
James enlisted in Rotherham into the 9<sup>th</sup> battalion the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and went to France in September 1915. Between 17<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1918 the battled hardened troops of the KOYLI finally liberated Mons where it had all begun more than four years before.

James was killed in Action on October 23 1918 aged 33. He was awarded the Victory Medal, The British War Medal and the 1915 Star.

He is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial – Panel 8 (above)



# Bethel Hayton



## Private – 33228: 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

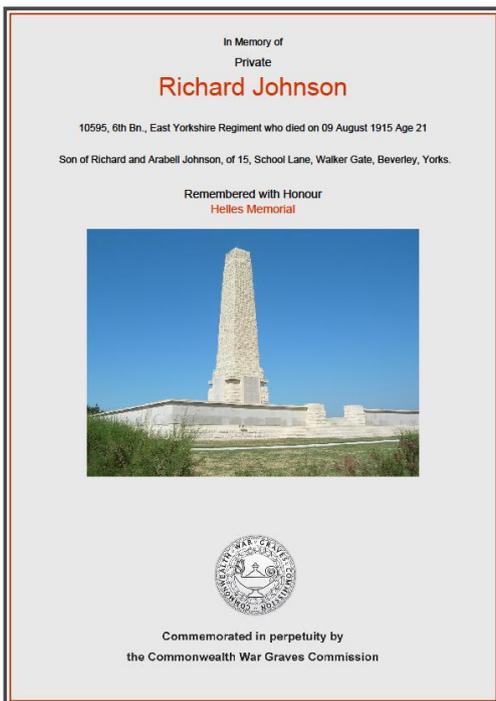
Robert Spencer Hayton, a shepherd of Walkington, (who worked for George Leaper) and his wife Sarah Jane Guinness were parents of a large family of fourteen children, eleven of whom died in childhood. Their three surviving children were Mark Hayton born on 6 August 1894, his brother Bethel born in 1898 and his sister Alice born in 1900. Shortly after 1901 the family moved to 1 Thompson Place, Beverley (three doors from the Molescroft Inn).

Bethel worked as a farm worker at Londesborough Wold until he enlisted aged 18 into the East Yorkshire Regiment on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1916. He was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Hull Pals (the Hull Commercials) as the 10<sup>th</sup> battalion was known. Though he had little connection with Hull this was probably because of their heavy losses in the action at Serre on the Somme on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1916. He arrived in France in early 1917 and would have survived the Hull Pals action at heavily defended Oppy Wood on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Bethel was killed in action on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1917. The circumstances of his death are not known but his death was recorded in the Beverley Guardian with a letter from his Platoon officer, C.H. Piper, to his father that sheds light on Bethel's character. Piper says that, '*he was a good and willing worker and a true friend. I am sure his loss will be felt by everyone in the platoon. Kindly accept my deepest sympathy. Trust you will bear the great loss with courage as he died for a noble cause.*'

He is buried in the Orchard Dump cemetery at Arleux-en-Gohelle, Dept du Pas-de-Calais France Grave VIII.A.24 and is remembered on the Molescroft Roll of Honour and also on the East Riding Memorial in Beverley Minster.

# Richard Johnson



## **Private – 10595: 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment**

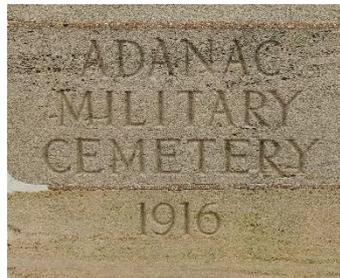
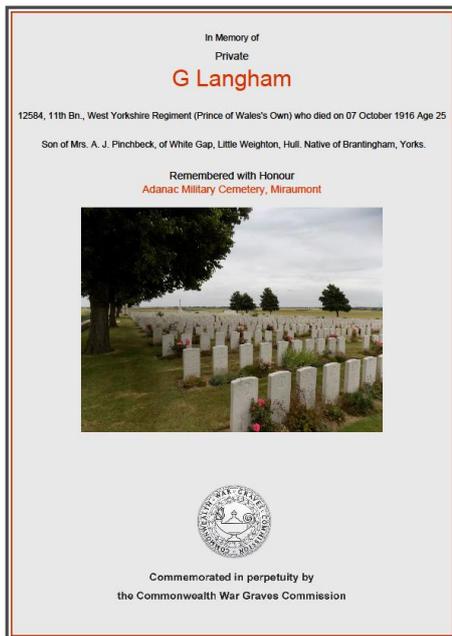
Richard Johnson was born on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1894, one of ten children to Richard and Arabell, nee (Lovell), Johnson at Beverley. He was baptised at St Mary's church and the family lived in School Lane off Walkergate, Beverley. He was a shipyard worker before enlisting into 6<sup>th</sup> battalion East Yorkshire Regiment at Hull where his enlistment papers show him as residing in Walkington.

He went to the Balkans on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915 and on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915 the 6<sup>th</sup> were at Suvla Bay advancing across country from Sulajik to the slopes of Tekke Tepe. As they began to climb the slopes they came under heavy sniper attacks and Richard was killed in this advance.

He is remembered on the Helles Memorial (Panel 51 to 54) which stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It takes the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles, near Sedd El Bahr, in modern day Turkey. He is also remembered on the St Mary's School Roll of Honour, the East Yorkshire Regiment Memorial in Beverley Minster and on the Beverley War Memorial, Hengate.

He was awarded the 1915 Star, the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

# George Langham



LANGHAM, Pte. G., 12584. 11th Bn. West Yorkshire Regt. 7th Oct., 1916. Age 25. Son of Mrs. A. J. Pinchbeck, of White Gap, Little Weighton, Hull. Native of Brantingham, Yorks. I. H. 7.



## Private – 12584: 11<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own)

George Langham was born in Walkington in 1891, the census must have been taken just after his birth for he had not been given a first name and is named as just Langham. His father Isaac Langham already had two step sons Walter and Henry Binnington when he married his wife Amelia. They lived on East End and were neighbours of the Oliver family with young Oliver Cromwell Oliver as a neighbour.

By 1901 Amelia was widowed and living in Little Weighton on Malt Shovel Road with her children Joseph and George both born in Walkington and Arthur, Rachel and Charles all born at Welton. Next door to them was the Forbes family. By 1911 George was earning his living as a farm labourer at Moor Monkton near York. He married Alice Shepherd in York in 1912 and by September 1915 had enlisted into the 11<sup>th</sup> battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

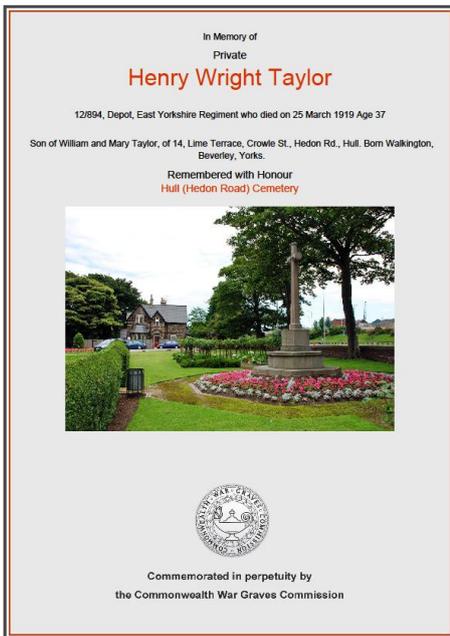
Little is known about his service record but he died at the Battle of Transloy on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1916. This battle was in terrible weather in heavy clinging chalky Somme mud and freezing flooded battle fields which became more formidable than the Germans.

He was awarded the Victory Medal, the British War Medal and 1915 Star. The Medal Roll shows that at some stage the battalion served in the Balkans.

His soldier's effects of £11.19. 7, was left to his mother, now Amelia Pinchbeck living at White Gap, Little Weighton.

He is buried in the Adanac Military Cemetery, Miraumont. Grave ref: I.H.7. (see above)

# Henry Wright Taylor



## Private – 12/894: 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment

Henry Taylor, son of William and Mary Taylor, was born in Walkington and baptised at Walkington Church on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1882. The family lived for a short time in the village living next door to the Langham family whose son George also died in the war.

By 1901 they had moved to Hull where Henry his parents and five brothers lived off Crowle Street. Circumstances had changed considerably by 1911; all of the brothers had left home and just Henry and his widowed mother were living at the same address, 14 Lime Terrace, Crowle Street, Hull.

Henry signed on in December 1915 into 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment, Regimental Number 12/894.

No information could be found about his service but he died of wounds at home on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1919 aged 37. He was awarded the Victory Medal, British War Medal and 1915 Star.

He is buried in the Hedon Road Cemetery Hull with the inscription 'Death divides but memory clings'.

### Footnote:

It is probable that Henry's father William Taylor was related to Robert Taylor father of Thomas William Taylor of Walkington who was killed in the Battles of the Somme.

11. In 1919 Walkington assembled round the new War Memorial to honour the dead and the following poem written by Mrs. M. Dawe wife of the Rector reflected the village grief.

*Le Jour Des Morts*  
*(The Day of the Dead)*

*November and the autumn winds are blowing  
All souls day comes once more,  
The day - of that great host forever blowing,  
In the door.*

*Some we have lost went through with smiles of gladness  
Triumphant on the way  
And others clung to this poor life of sadness  
and only asked to stay.*

*And many passed from hence to life immortal  
Unconscious of the call, falling in noble fight, faced the portal  
That opens wide for all.*

*But glad - reluctant - conscious or unknowing  
We could not stay their feet  
No more we meet, when autumn winds are blowing,  
In home, or field or street.*

*Gone from our midst, are they  
Thru grey November  
But yet forever dear,  
Surely they know today that we remember,  
They seem so strangely near*

## 12. Reflections

Malcolm Brown in his 'Book of the Somme' published in 1996 gives voice to the reminiscences of a soldier writing in 1920. In the postscript to his account of the war the soldier writes of:-

*'Now knowing what hunger, thirst, dirt, death, and fear really mean ' He records that, 'Those who have never experienced it will find it difficult to realize anything more fearful. Those at home would never realize the work a soldier was asked to do and those who talk of 'The Next War' are the people who have never suffered'.*

### **13. Bibliography**

The information contained in this book is as accurate as we could possibly make it however the reader must appreciate that given the time which has passed since the events herein took place we realise that there is always the possibility of error. If any are found please accept our apologies.

Where the place of death is not officially recorded the author has, in some cases, made an “educated guess” by matching the date to their regiment’s location / action at the time.

I am grateful to the following sources of information:

- The information in Sections 3, 4 and 5 were only made possible by the wonderful research work carried out by Christine Elston. The bibliography at the end of her *‘Walkington Remembers’* book published in 2014 lists all her sources of information

In addition I would like to acknowledge the following:

- Men with Walkington Connections – © Roll-of-Honour.com
- Richard Johnson - With thanks to B.S.Barnes *‘Known unto God’* and to the volunteers on the WW1 project in the Archives dept. at the Treasure House, Beverley.
- Reflections – Malcom Brown – *‘Book of the Somme’*
- Jim Dunn – Charles Dunn photographs and information
- World War 2 Summary - <https://worldwar2.org.uk/world-war-2-summary>
- Colin Hinson – George Raymond Ellerington – Photo of grave
- East Riding Yeomanry website – Donald Hall
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- Website <https://www.macrobertsreply.net/> - MacRobert’s Reply (Bob Nicholson)
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- East Riding Archives – Various photographs supplied through Christine Elston

# Lest We Forget

