



# The Spire Sentinel



**The Newsletter & Magazine of The  
Chesterfield Branch of The Western Front  
Association**



**ISSUE 87 - May 2023**

Our aims are 'Remembrance and Sharing the History of the  
Great War'.



## Western Front Association Chesterfield Branch – Meetings 2023

Meetings start at 7.30pm and take place at the Labour Club, Unity House, Saltergate, Chesterfield S40 1NF

January	4th	. <b>AGM + `British League of Help`</b> by Dudley Giles. Nearly 90 towns, cities, and organisations in the UK, Australia, Canada and Mauritius signed up in the period 1920-1922 to 'adopt' a village, town or city in the Devastated Zone of France.
February	7th	` <b>The First AIR War`</b> ` by Grant Cullen. Based on a collection of rare photographs acquired over 20 years ago at a yard sale in Hazelwood, Missouri, US, this will look at the various protagonists in WW1 - people and Planes
March	7th	` <b>Voie Sacree`</b> by Roy Larkin. The story of the road that connects Bar-le-Duc to Verdun It was given its name because of the vital role it played during the Battle of Verdun in World War I.
April	4th	" <b>For Home and Honour`</b> by Yvonne Ridgeway and James Kay. A bit of a history of our local community in North Sheffield during WW1, from their own research, looking at recruitment, the 1st Sheffield blitz, the tribunals for those wishing to avoid military service and some of the local soldiers' stories.
May	2nd	<b>The First World War contribution of Dulmial Village, in present day Pakistan</b> by Dr Irfan Malik. His Gt. Grandfathers experiences in WW1, and the wider role of muslim soldiers during that conflict
June	6th	<b>Stepbrothers in Arms: the Conscript Experience in 1918</b> By Tim Lynch who will examine the myths and realities of the army of 1918 and what the evidence actually tells us about ideas of cohesion, morale and professionalism in the BEF.
July	4th	Dr Rebecca Ball ' <b>Daddy, what did you do in the great War?</b> ' Drawing upon fifty working-class autobiographies, this talk examines the impact of the Great War on fifty English families with a particular focus on fathers.
August	1st	Dr. Adam Prime - a newly appointed WFA Trustee who will talk about ' <b>India's Great War</b> ' This talk looks at India's contribution to the First World War in every sense of the word.
September	5th	" <b>Dark Satanic Mills - How Britain's Industry Went to War</b> ". By <b>Andy Rawson</b> This is an insight into the wide range of factories across the country, which worked around the clock to keep up with the expanding requirements of the armed services.
October	3rd	Kevin Jepson - details to follow
November	7th	Peter Hart - <b>Trench Humour -a look at how soldiers use humour to get through the horrors of trench warfare.</b>
December	5th	David Blanchard - <b>The Casualty Evacuation Chain from Hill 60, Ypres, in early 1915</b>

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### **Rob Thompson 1st July 1964 - 20th March 2023**



On 13th April 2023, The Western Front Association Chair Tony Bolton plus WFA Trustees Mark Macartney and Colin Wagstaff, and other WFA Members and friends attended Rob's Cremation at Overdale Crematorium (Bolton)

This was a very sad day for all who knew Rob, but all attending Rob's Cremation "did him proud". Four lovely eulogies were spoken by Rob's wife Sunta, his daughter Rachelle, WFA Trustee Colin Wagstaff, and Great War Group Co-Founder and Trustee Alex Churchill.

The Cremation was followed by a "Celebration of Rob's Life" at Saint Margaret's Church.

Mark Macartney | Branded Goods Trustee | The Western Front Association

*Any opinions expressed in this Newsletter / Magazine are not necessarily those of the Western Front Association, Chesterfield Branch, in particular, or the Western Front Association in general*



## *Secretary's Scribbles*

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the issue 87 of our Branch Newsletter for May 2023.

This issue is well filled and I hope there is something for everyone in it. Our Committee Member Peter Harris is now home recovering from surgery and whilst he has more post operative treatment, hopefully it won't be long before he's back among us. Thoughts too, for Branch regular, Tim

Whitworth who has been struggling with a health problem recently.



Our May meeting speaker is Dr Irfan Malik, a Nottingham chap, born and bred, still living in the city in the Carlton district. He is a GP and has practised for over 20 years. He is married with two children

His well illustrated talk will tell the unique story of the 460 soldiers - including his great-grandfathers, from Dulmial village in present day Pakistan who fought in the Great War and their subsequent reward of a 200 year old Scottish cannon !

The presentation also explores the wider role on the Muslim soldiers in the First World War.

Dr Malik has been researching this topic since 2014 and has been featured on Sky News, BBC News, Channel 5 News and in the Daily Telegraph

At recent meetings Branch Chair, Tony mentioned the possibility of the Branch organising free transport to the WFA President's Conference at the 'Tally Ho' Conference Centre in Birmingham on May 20<sup>th</sup>. To date this is unlikely to happen as support by members has not been forthcoming in order to make it viable.

As you know attendances at meetings have bounced back remarkably post covid but your Committee feels we should be doing more for our members and are therefore looking at options - we are happy to look at ideas put forward by members - please let me know what you think.

Also am always looking for contributions for inclusion. The reports on the April meeting in this newsletter were compiled by that evening's speakers, Yvonne Ridgeway and James Kay - excellent follow up !

Best wishes, Grant Cullen Branch Secretary 07824628638  
[grantcullen@hotmail.com](mailto:grantcullen@hotmail.com)

## CWGC Event at Spital Cemetery

As I went to press with the newsletter, I received the undernoted from Steve Brunt - Steve is the Chair of the Friends of Spital Cemetery, Chesterfield

*Hi Grant, for information and great news that the Friends of Spital Cemetery have earned national and international recognition by being included as a venue during Commonwealth War Graves week.*

*See the link below from Jane Lansdown of the CWGC.*

*Regards*

*Steve*

Here is the Eventbrite link to the event:

If any member wants to attend book your ticket on line via the link. Tickets are free but bookings end on May 19th

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/war-graves-week-2023-friends-of-spital-cemetery-tickets-623520796487>

### **Date and time**

Sun, 21 May 2023 14:00 - 15:30 BST

### **Location**

**Spital Cemetery Hady Hill, Hady, Chesterfield S41 0EZ**



# BRANDED GOODS AVAILABILITY

New items are always being considered, so please check the Branded goods part of the shop for all items available.

Prices are inclusive of postage within UK (Branded Items Nos 1-11)

[www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/wfa-branded-items/?p=2](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/wfa-branded-items/?p=2)

or call Head Office (Sarah Gunn or Maya Shapland) on 020 7118 1914

And the (Branded Clothing, Nos 12- 18) note new prices (under) effective from 1st July.

Order direct from supplier (West Coast Workwear) [www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/branded-clothing/](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/shop/branded-clothing/)  
or ring (0800 169 2228 or 01704 873301)



1	Fridge Magnet	(£5)	59mm dia, front metal plate, high strength neodymium magnetic backplate, and plastic mylar front cover
2	Anniv' Coaster	(£8.50)	4" in diameter hand crafted slate. Individually polished, screen printed by hand and backed by a baize
3	Mousemats	(£6)	196 x 235mm fabric surface and are of high quality. They have a rubberised base layer
4	Bookmarks	(£2)	(dims 55 x 175mm) rich UV High Gloss Coating provides protection against stains and damage
5	Baseball Caps	(£8)	Lightweight 5 Panel cotton cap, adjustable with velcro rip-strip, one size fits all
6	Ties	(£11)	Length 142cm, width 9cm (at widest part), 100% Polyester
7	Lapel Badges	(£2.50)	25mm Dia. Die struck + imitation hard enamel, Silver Nickel Plating, Butterfly clutch pin
8	Mug	(£10)	11oz ceramic mug (95mm high x 85mm diameter) features the bold official WFA logo design (two sides)
9	Messenger Bag	(£27)	37 x 29 x 11cm, 100% Cotton. Full cotton lining. Zippered organiser section, Capacity:13 litres
10	Despatch Bag	(£30)	40 x 30 x 12 cm, (10) Washed Canvas, dual rear pouch pockets. Multiple zippered pockets. Capacity: 14 litres
11	Shoulder Bag	(£25)	40 x 28 x 18 cm, (10) (11) Polyester. Internal valuables pocket. Zippered front pocket. Capacity: 14 litres
12	Oxford Shirt	(£27)	Kustom Kit Short Sleeve Corporate Oxford Shirt. Easy iron button down collar, 85% cotton, 15% polyester
13	Breathable Jacket	(£71)	Russell Hydro Plus 2000 Jacket. Nylon taslon with PU Coating
14	Rugby Shirt	(£25)	Front Row Classic Rugby Shirt, 100% Cotton
15	Fleece	(£24)	Regatta Thor 111 Fleece Jacket, 100% polyester anti pill
16	T-shirt	(£17)	Russell Classic Cotton T-Shirt. 100% ringspun cotton
17	Sweat Shirt	(£22.50)	Gents Russell Jerzees Raglan / Ladies Fruit Of The Loom Raglan
18	Polo Shirt	(£20.50)	Russell Cotton Pique Polo Shirt. 100% cotton

## April Meeting

### For Home and Honour: Great War Stories from a West Riding village

Yvonne and James introduced their talk, which aimed to show how the momentous events of the Great War affected one small community in the old West Riding of Yorkshire. For each year of the war, they would relate a story or two from Ecclesfield, north Sheffield. They explained that their talk's title "For Home and Honour" was taken from the name of a regular wartime newspaper column in the Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, which reported the latest news on local servicemen. To set the scene, they began by describing briefly the history and character of Ecclesfield.

They then turned to the outbreak of war in August 1914, when the community's attention turned to fundraising for Belgian refugees and comforts for local soldiers, and recruitment. Several families of Belgian refugees sought refuge in Ecclesfield for the duration of the war. A Home Defence Corps was established, for men who were too old to enlist in the armed forces, and they were granted free use of Ecclesfield Rifle Club's rifle range, and free ammunition too. Recruitment for men of service age was strongly promoted, with recruitment meetings held locally, but prominent officials, such as Walter Newton Drew of Newton Chambers and Company, expressed their frustration about the lack of willing recruits. Few Ecclesfield men joined the local 'Pals' battalion, the Sheffield City Battalion, with most joining other battalions of the York and Lancaster Regiment or the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. Some local men were already serving in the army as "regulars", or were called up as Reservists.

1915 saw the continuation of many of the activities of the previous year. The marriage registers of the local parish church, St. Mary's, and the local Methodist chapel, recorded the first "military" or "khaki" weddings, as they were described in the local press. The impact of the war started to be felt more deeply as local soldiers were wounded, and killed. 1915 saw the death of the first of three young men closely related to Mr. Lewis Worth (senior), landlord of the Sportsman Inn, Ecclesfield. He would lose two of his four sons, and a step son in the war. In November 1915, the sinking of the Hospital Ship Anglia resulted in the deaths of two Ecclesfield wartime recruits: Kenneth Myers of the R.F.A. and Herbert Rose of the 1<sup>st</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers.

Other than 1914, the year 1916 had the fewest war casualties amongst Ecclesfield men. Compulsory military service was introduced, and Military Tribunals were held to assess cases where men were seeking exemption. The language used in the reports which appeared in the local press was often hostile towards those seeking exemption.

One man, 41-year-old John Henry Butterworth, Secretary of Ecclesfield Rifle Club, took his own life due to his fears of being conscripted for military service. A landing ground for 33 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, was established in Ecclesfield in April 1916, but this did nothing to mitigate the effects of the “First Sheffield Blitz” of the night of 25-26<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

During 1917, Ecclesfield families experienced the greatest number of bereavements of serving soldiers. Having already covered this aspect of the war, Yvonne and James instead described the wartime romance between the Ecclesfield-born nurse, Nellie Gregory, of Ranmoor Hospital, Sheffield, and a wounded Scottish soldier, James Robertson Sutherland, which culminated in their wedding in October 1917.

Early 1918 brought news of another Hospital Ship sinking, this time of the Glenart Castle, in the early hours of 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Glenart Castle was displaying full regulation hospital ship lights, which should have protected her under the Geneva Convention, against being torpedoed by German submarine UC-56. However, whilst the U-boat’s Commander, Wilhelm Kieswetter, escaped being held to account for his alleged war crime of sinking a hospital ship, the people of Ecclesfield lost their much-loved village doctor of some 30 years’ service, Dr. John Addison Stainsby. Yvonne and James concluded their talk by looking at the far-reaching, and perhaps unexpected, consequences of the German Spring Offensive, which began on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918.

The talk in full

### **For Home and Honour: Great War Stories from a West Riding village**

Yvonne and James introduced their talk, which aimed to show how the momentous events of the Great War affected one small community in the old West Riding of Yorkshire. For each year of the war, they would relate a story or two from Ecclesfield, north Sheffield. They explained that their talk’s title “For Home and Honour” was taken from the name of a regular wartime newspaper column in the Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, which reported the latest news on local servicemen. To set the scene, they began by describing briefly the history and character of Ecclesfield.

Today, Ecclesfield is often regarded just as a suburb in north Sheffield, but its origins date back further than most. There was already a settlement there in Saxon times. The village was mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the remains of two ancient wayside crosses have been found locally. These are now on display inside the parish church, St. Mary’s, which has long been nicknamed the “Minster of the Moors.” St. Mary’s was originally the parish church for Hallamshire, which was a vast 64 square



miles in size; its boundaries almost reaching the Cheshire border. Next to St. Mary's church, there are the remains of a Norman Priory.



St. Mary's church, Ecclesfield, "The Minster of the Moors" (photo: Yvonne Ridgeway).

The Vicar of Ecclesfield between 1839 and 1903 was the Revd. Dr. Alfred Gatty. He and his family left a significant historical legacy. The Revd. Dr. Gatty was the author of several books, and his first wife, Margaret Gatty was an author in her own right and a renowned expert on seaweeds. They had a large and talented family. For example, their daughter, Mrs. Juliana Ewing, was a popular children's author. One of her books, "The Brownies and Other Stories," is said to be the inspiration for the name of the Brownie Guides movement. Within Ecclesfield churchyard is buried the Revd. Alexander Scott, the father-in-law of the Revd. Dr. Gatty. The Revd. Alexander Scott was a close friend of Horatio Nelson, and served as his Foreign Secretary and personal Chaplain. He stayed by Nelson's side as he lay dying onboard HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Ecclesfield churchyard is also the last resting place of the famous Antiquarian, Joseph Hunter, the author of *Hallamshire* (1819), an edition of which was co-authored with the Revd. Dr. Alfred Gatty. The Hunter Archaeological Society, which was founded in 1912, was named in his memory.

As with many villages, there are customs and traditions which have endured over the years. One of the most enjoyable customs from this part of Sheffield is the singing of the local Christmas Carols - traditionally within pubs, rather than inside church!

### **1914: "Recruitment, Reservists and the plight of the Belgian Refugees"**

With the outbreak of war, initial attention turned to the plight of Belgian refugees, comforts for the soldiers and, of course, recruitment. Right from the outbreak of war, Ecclesfield residents were fundraising: there were collections, concerts and flower shows. One local publican, a keen gardener, even sold flowers as "buttonholes" to raise money! Initially, most of the money raised was in aid of the Belgian Refugees.

At least 23 Belgium Refugees were rehomed in Ecclesfield. One family of them, the Vertommens, were from the Belgian town of Louvain, which was devastated by fire by the German Army on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1914, in retaliation after the German soldiers believed that the Belgian civilians had snipers who were firing at them. Louvain's University with its renowned library were destroyed, and its residents fled.

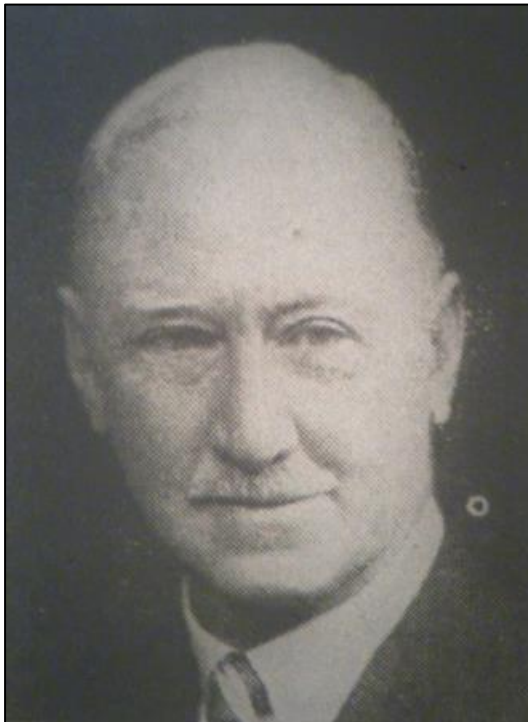
*OUR BELGIAN GUESTS. The following are the names and present addresses of Belgium Refugees at present in Ecclesfield: Madam and Mademoiselle Benkenhout, at Mrs. Wrigleys on Cross Hill; Monsieur and Madame Hevwegh and family at Mrs. Parkin's on Cross Hill; Madame and Mademoiselle Vertermen and Madame Vourdepont at Mr. Bedfords, Church Street; Monsieur and Madame Bernard Dearinck and son at Mr. E. Mead's, The Common; Monsieur and Madame Stroobants and three sons at Mr. Moses Yeardley's, Stocks Hill. One of the smaller rooms at the Gatty Memorial Hall has been placed at their disposal, where they meet each other. Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 14<sup>th</sup> November 1914, page 6.*

A Home Defence Corps, made up of men who were not eligible to join the armed services due to their age, started meeting at the Gatty Memorial Hall twice weekly. Ecclesfield Rifle Club offered them free use of their rifle range, and free ammunition too. They soon had about 60 recruits!

Recruitment into the armed services became hugely important, and those who had joined the colours were named and extravagantly praised in the press. Recruitment meetings were held in Ecclesfield and neighbouring Chapeltown. However, recruitment was slow. By mid-January 1915, only 78 Ecclesfield men had joined the armed services. This can be compared with the 400 plus Ecclesfield men who are named on Ecclesfield's Roll of Honour (this is assumed to have been compiled during, or shortly after the war, and can still be found on the wall of St. Mary's church). Prominent local officials, such as Mr. Walter Newton Drew of Newton Chambers and

Company, declared their frustrations over the lack of willing recruits. Here is an extract from his letter to the Penistone and Stocksbridge Express in November 1914:

*We must all admit with the deepest sorrow and shame that some districts round here have fallen far short of their patriotic duty. Ecclesfield, Chapeltown, High Green and Thorpe, among others, have no cause to be proud of their contribution to men of England in her hour of need. With others, I have recently promoted meetings which have been well attended, addressed by well-known and eloquent speakers, and the proportion of vigorous young men present has been noticeable. For a fortnight past, a recruiting station for the York and Lancaster Regiment has been open every evening at the Working Men's Club, Chapeltown, by kind permission of the Club. The result as regards recruits has hitherto been practically nil. Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 7<sup>th</sup> November 1914, page 6.*



### Walter Newton Drew, J.P. (1870-1934).

Walter Newton Drew was a qualified mining engineer and Managing Director of Newton Chambers and Company; a major local employer within its collieries, ironworks and chemical works. He lived at Raincliffe, near Ecclesfield.

Walter Newton Drew was born in India; his father a Major in the R.A.M.C. He was educated at Harrow School and the Royal School of Mines. In August 1910, he married Agnes Margaret Anna Boyd in Donegal, Ireland. He held many positions in public life, including Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield and became a Magistrate for the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1912.

During the Great War, Walter Newton Drew joined the V.T.C. in 1914. In November 1916, he was appointed Captain commanding "C" Company, 16<sup>th</sup> Bn, West Riding Volunteers. In June 1917, at the age of 46 years and 9 months, he enlisted in the Motor Transport section of the Army Service Corps, and was appointed to a commission in the same corps two months later. He first arrived in France and Flanders on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1918. His brother-in-law, Captain John Dopping Boyd, D.S.O. and bar, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.

Walter Newton Drew became Chairman of the Ecclesfield War Memorial Committee, and officiated during the dedication ceremony in Sept. 1921.

Only a few Ecclesfield men seem to have joined the local 'Pals' battalion, the 12<sup>th</sup> York and Lancaster Regiment ('Sheffield City Battalion'). Stewart Green was one of these few. However, although he was accepted initially, he was soon discharged on the grounds that he was unlikely to make an efficient soldier, possibly for reasons of physical fitness - his civilian role as a Chartered Accountant was quite a sedentary one. Undeterred, he went on to join the 1/4<sup>th</sup> (Hallamshire) battalion instead, reaching the rank of Company Quartermaster Serjeant. He died of his wounds in December 1917 and is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

1914 saw some Ecclesfield men engaged on active service as regular soldiers or reservists. Private Fred Arran was a Reservist. After leaving the colours, he worked as a tram conductor in Sheffield, then with the Ecclesfield Motor Bus Company. Called up again on the outbreak of war, he was taken prisoner whilst serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry:

*Private Arran, who was a reservist, was mobilized on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1914, and after a month's service was sent overseas, and he, along with his companions, were on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1914, taken prisoner at Messines; and after receiving a few kicks, they were marched to the German lines. It was here they saw the deceit of the enemy, who had machine-guns on stretchers and the firing party dressed as Red Cross attendants. At Menin they were searched, and after taking from them their overcoats and putties, they were marched to Lille, a distance of 16 miles, and on the way received blows with sticks from the onlookers and jabs of the rifle from the soldiers. Arriving at Lille they were put in a prison, and for three days received neither food nor water to drink, but were ordered out, and lined up in an exhausted condition; then marched around the town for exhibition. Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918, page 3.*



Newspaper clipping about Fred Arran (Sheffield Evening Telegraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1915,

page 2) and his son Ralph's headstone in Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Belgium.

After the war, Fred Arran returned to his work in public transport, and moved to North Yorkshire. One of his sons, Ralph, died in 1944, whilst serving with the Reconnaissance Corps, and is buried in Belgium. This is sadly not the only instance of an Ecclesfield man who returned home from the Great War only to lose a son during the Second World War.

### **1915: "The war hits home as local families hear of the first casualties"**

1915 saw the continuation of many of the activities of 1914 - fundraising, recruitment, and meetings of the Home Defence Corps. A number of "military" or "khaki" weddings" started to take place, as overseas service beckoned for some. The effects of the war on the community became more obvious, though, as some Ecclesfield men were reported wounded or killed.

The first Ecclesfield man to be killed in the war was William Gandy, a regular soldier with the 1<sup>st</sup> York and Lancaster Regiment. According to the Battalion's war diary, he appears to have been one of two men killed in the early hours of 17<sup>th</sup> April 1915, whilst his battalion were relieving the 2<sup>nd</sup> King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in the trenches.

*Private William Gandy, formerly of Townend Road, Ecclesfield, was killed in action in the fight for Hill 60. Private Gandy was a member of the York and Lancaster Regiment. He enlisted just over eight years ago, and most of the time has been spent in India. He was in India when war was declared, and his regiment was ordered home, arriving in England last December. He spent a few days in Ecclesfield at Christmas. This was his first visit home for over six years. He had just finished his period of service with the colours and, but for the war, would have been at liberty. The deceased was 28 years of age. On Sunday afternoon last a memorial service was held in the church. It was well attended, a fact that was greatly appreciated by his relatives. Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1915, page 8.*

In fact, the first four Ecclesfield men who died as a result of their war service were all regular soldiers or reservists. It was not until the second half of the year that any of the war time recruits would be lost.

One of these men was Lewis Worth. His father, also called Lewis Worth, had worked in domestic service, in some of the most prominent households in England. Lewis Worth junior, then, was the second of four sons, and he was born in Flookburgh, Cumbria, which is not far from Grange-over-Sands. His father was at that time employed as Under Butler to the influential Cavendish family - the Dukes of Devonshire - at their Holker Hall estate.

# 12846 Private Lewis Worth

9<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters

Died 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915.



Commemorated on  
the Helles Memorial

(C.W.G.C. photo).

After Lewis Worth senior left domestic service, the family settled in Worksop for a time, where they ran the Greyhound Hotel. Of course, as a former butler, Lewis Worth senior would have known all about looking after wines and other alcoholic beverages. After Lewis Worth senior's wife died in 1912, the family moved to Sheffield and took over the running of the Sportsman Inn on High Street, Ecclesfield.

Lewis Worth junior enlisted in the army in August 1914. He retained his Worksop connections by joining the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters. He would have been amongst the first 100,000 Kitchener volunteers. In October 1914, the battalion were inspected by Lord Kitchener, and before they left England for Gallipoli, they were invited to parade through the streets of Nottingham, which must have been an incredible experience for these young men.

On 7<sup>th</sup> August 1915, Lewis Worth's battalion landed at Suvla Bay. Two days later, the battalion were ordered to advance towards Chocolate Hill. During the attack, Lewis Worth suffered gunshot wounds to his left arm and abdomen. He was admitted to 149<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Unit but died later that same day, 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915.

FILE OPENED IN REGION 4 ON 28.4.22 Y.B.1600 C.W.12409  
 4 ON 28.7.23

DCJ 3252

DEPENDANT'S PENSION

Registered No. 24482

Man's Name... *WORTH* (Surname first: in Block Letters) *WORTH* *Boote* *Sidney* *Lewis* *Francis* *Henry* *Worth*

Regimental Official No. *252440* *12846* *28888*

Regiment or Ship *WORCESTER* *NOTTS* *DERBY* *S. STAFFS* Rank Rating *Pvt.*

Date of Death *9.8.15* Cause of Death *Killed*  
*19.2.14* *Died from Spotted Fever*

Name of Dependant *WORTH* *Lewis* *Francis* *Henry* *Worth*

Relationship to Man *Father* *Mother* *24* *31*

Address *Plateau de Brest* *The Bungalow*  
*Longueville* *South Kirby*  
*ST OMER* *lines*  
*PAR DE CAEN*

10m/4/24-[M3651] 6237/A1452 12m 7/24 2509 G & S 151

Pension Card for Lewis and Francis Henry Worth and Sidney Boote (W.F.A./Fold3).

**ECCLESFIELD LAD KILLED.**

Private Lewis Worth, son of Mr. Lewis Worth, of the Sportsman Inn, Ecclesfield, was killed at the Dardanelles on August 9<sup>th</sup>. His people had been without news of him for two months when they received the official intelligence. Private Worth was a gamekeeper, and enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters in August of 1914. His three brothers are working on munitions. Before leaving for the front, we understand, Private Worth said to his father, "I shall not see you again, father; I feel sure that I shall be killed." Penistone & Stocksbridge Express, 9<sup>th</sup> October 1915, page 5.

The war brought further tragedy to the Worth family. In February 1917, Lewis's older brother, Francis Henry Worth, died of spotted fever in France, whilst serving with the South Staffordshire Regiment. In 1916, their father, Lewis Worth senior, that is, the former butler and landlord of the Sportsman Inn, Ecclesfield, married a widow called Caroline Boote. One of her sons from her previous marriage died during the war. His name was Sidney Boote, and he died of wounds in Belgium in October 1917.

One of Caroline Boote's daughters, Dorothy Gladys Boote, served in the Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps during the war, as a telegraphist in France. In 1920, she married Cecil William Kent in St. Mary's church, Ecclesfield - he was a Medical Attendant employed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at St. Omer, France. The

Pension Card for Lewis and Francis Henry Worth and Sidney Boote suggest that Lewis Worth senior may also have moved to France after the war (there is a crossed out French address). The story of the Worths and Bootes shows how the Great War irrevocably changed the lives of many families.

So, to move on... during the whole of the Great War, three Ecclesfield men died at sea. However, none of these served in the Navy! Two of them died on the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup> November 1915, when the Hospital Ship Anglia struck a mine off Dover.



The sinking of the Hospital Ship Anglia, 17<sup>th</sup> November 1915.

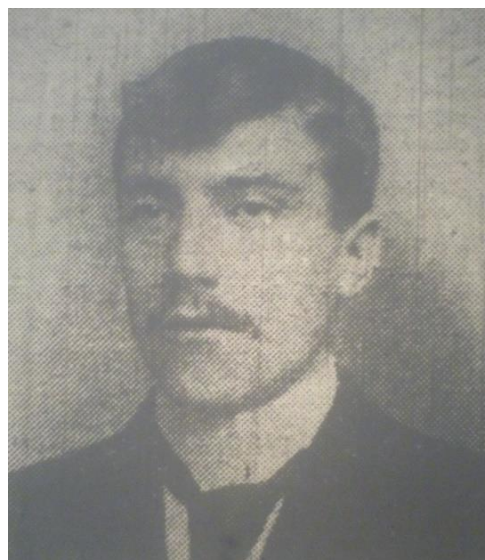
The National Archives, ADM 1/8443/367.

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 1915, Germany had declared a war zone around Britain, within which merchant ships could be sunk without warning. This 'unrestricted submarine warfare' angered neutral countries, especially the United States. Germany abandoned the tactic in September 1915, following the loss of American lives on board the torpedoed liner, Lusitania.

However, despite this, it is thought that mines were laid deliberately in the path of Hospital Ship Anglia, in a clearly marked channel that other ships were not allowed to enter. She was the first hospital ship of the war to be sunk with patients on board. On hitting the mine, the ship's engines did not shut down, and this made the disaster worse. As the ship's bow sunk, she listed heavily to one side. Her port propellor was underwater, driving her round in a circle, whilst her starboard propellor spun dangerously above the waterline. This prevented other ships from coming alongside to offer assistance. One of the ships coming to rescue the wounded, a collier by the name of Lusitania, also hit a mine, and sank.



The Anglia was carrying approximately 200 “walking wounded” and approximately 160 “cot cases” - some of the men had had feet, arms, or legs amputated. The nurses and medical staff on board the Anglia were praised for evacuating the cot cases, even from the lowest decks, which were quickly submerged by the sea. Nurses remained with their patients, refusing to seek safety for themselves. The King himself expressed his shock and sympathy over the Anglia disaster. Only a few weeks earlier, he had been conveyed from France to England on board the same ship, after being thrown from his horse in France and suffering serious injuries.



Ecclesfield's H.M.H.S. Anglia Victims: 33307 Gnr. Kenneth Myers, R.F.A. (left), Penistone & Stocksbridge Express, 4<sup>th</sup> December 1915, page 5, and 17320 Pte. Herbert Rose, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers (right), Sheffield Independent, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1915, page 1.

The youngest of the two Ecclesfield men who died when the Anglia sunk was Kenneth Myers.

*Gunner Kenneth Myers, Royal Field Artillery, son of Mr. George Myers of Johnson Lane, Ecclesfield, who a short time ago, received information that his son had dislocated his shoulder, and was being sent home from France, has been telegraphed to the effect that Myers is missing and feared drowned. He was a passenger on the Anglia, and is the second Ecclesfield victim of that unfortunate vessel. Myers was only 19 years of age, and enlisted in September 1914. Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 4<sup>th</sup> December 1915, page 5.*

Kenneth Myers's body was never found, and he is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial in Southampton. He still has many relatives living in Ecclesfield today.

The other Ecclesfield casualty of the Anglia sinking, Herbert Rose, was 37 years old. He was returning to England suffering from Trench Fever, which he had contracted whilst serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers. Herbert originated from the nearby village of Chapeltown, but in 1909 he married an Ecclesfield widow, Ellen Briggs, who was seven years his senior, and who already had five children! Some of his step sons went on to serve in the army during the war. Herbert and Ellen's son, Fred, was born in 1911. Herbert worked at Thorncliffe Colliery and was a member of Chapeltown Brass Band. His body was recovered after the disaster, and was brought back to Ecclesfield, where he was given a military funeral. According to the Ecclesfield Junior School log book, many children were absent that day on account of attending the funeral, which was described in detail by the local press:

*The cortège was headed by the band of the York and Lancaster Regiment, to the impressive strains of Chopin's "Funeral March" and the "Dead March" in Saul. The gun carriage, bearing the coffin, covered with the Union Jack, was in the charge of a detachment of the Royal Field Artillery, under the command of Sergeant-Major Markham, Sergeant Wheeler (Barnsley) and Sergeant Allen. The Reverend F. W. Pawson (Vicar of Ecclesfield) was the officiating clergyman. Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 27<sup>th</sup> November 1915, page 7.*

### 1916: "The impact of war on the home front"

1916 saw very few war casualties of Ecclesfield men. Although some local men were injured on the first day of the battle of the Somme, for example, the village did not experience a single war fatality on that day.



January 1916 saw the introduction of compulsory military service for unmarried men. Those who sought to be exempted had to appear before Military Tribunals, and summaries of the proceedings started to appear in the local press. At this point, we started to wonder about what James's grandfather, Albert Kay, had done during the war, with James having no recollection of hearing about any war time service. The only mention of him we could find in the local newspapers were of his band playing for various local dances! However, James found a Howell & Co. Ltd. "O.H.M.S." badge amongst his grandfather's belongings, which seems to indicate that, as well as his musical activities, he was also employed in essential war work! Howells was a Sheffield firm that made machine cut files. File cutting is an historic Ecclesfield trade, along with nail making.

The language used in the local press reports of the tribunals often reveals hostility towards those exempted from military service due to their occupation. For example:

*A case of three Ecclesfield brothers came before the tribunal. A member said that two of the young men had got behind the war badge, but the remaining son ought not to be allowed to escape and to dodge military service, as had the brothers who had gone into munition works.*

*A member: They are going to pull them out, are they not, Mr. Bramley?*

*Mr. Bramley: Yes, I rather believe that is so. We are going to have a lot to do.*

*The Chairman: Have you any idea when we shall get hold of the rabbits who have burrowed so successfully?*

*Mr. Bramley: It depends on Mr. Lloyd George.*

*A month's exemption was granted, and the mother, who applied, was told that if one of the munitions working sons would go, this one might remain.*

*Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 18<sup>th</sup> March 1916, page 5.*

In April 1916, a particularly tragic event took place, as one man took extreme action to avoid military service. 41-year-old John Henry Butterworth of High Street, Ecclesfield had no fixed occupation, but instead helped to collect rents for his father, local property owner and churchwarden Robert Butterworth. J.H. Butterworth also acted as district reporter for a local newspaper. He was a member of Ecclesfield Brass Band, a prominent member of Ecclesfield Rifle Club, and generally regarded as one of the best-known characters of the village, always ready to help a charitable cause. What happened next found its way into newspapers all over the country.

*SUICIDE RATHER THAN SERVE. John Henry Butterworth, of Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, a prominent member of the local rifle club, was discovered by his sister seated in an armchair, dead. A rifle was lying by his side. A bullet had passed into the forehead. Butterworth left a note in which he said he dreaded enlisting in the Army. At the inquest on Saturday a verdict of suicide during a fit of depression was returned. Newcastle Journal, 10<sup>th</sup> April 1916, page 7.*

According to more local reports, the note that Butterworth left read: "Life is not worth living for any man who is not allowed to follow the profession that appeals to him" (Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 15<sup>th</sup> April 1916, page 5). At the inquest, discussion was held about Butterworth's frame of mind:

*He had suffered from mental depression all his life, and had had fits ever since it was reported that the age limit of men for enlistment had been raised to 45. This*

*had preyed on his mind. Deceased was a weak man, and for this reason had not followed any regular occupation. Sheffield Telegraph 8<sup>th</sup> April 1916, page 5.*



Approximate location of Ecclesfield Landing Ground, 33 (Home Defence Squadron) Royal Flying Corps, 1916 (Google Maps).

In response to growing concerns over Zeppelin raids, or the “Zepps” as they were commonly known at the time, air defences were being expanded. 33 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps, which had its headquarters at Tadcaster, had flight detachments scattered around the region. In around April 1916, a landing ground was established at Ecclesfield. It would have literally been just a field, with no facilities provided, and it is likely that it was no longer operational by the end of that year.

A Zeppelin raid did reach Sheffield on the night of 25/26<sup>th</sup> September 1916. 28 people were killed in the raid, and 19 more injured. The city’s air raid defences were criticised and described as “shambolic”. From all accounts, there was no anti-aircraft fire to engage the Zeppelin, because the officers of the local anti-aircraft defences were attending a ball at the Grand Hotel in Sheffield city centre on the evening of the attack, so no order was given to open fire! Only one gun, in the Shiregreen area, reportedly fired two rounds in the direction of the Zeppelin, but without effect.



## David Thurston Smith (1879- 1959).

David Thurston Smith was the seventh of nine sons of Francis Patrick Smith and his wife Margaret Scott Smith (née Gatty), of Barnes Hall near Ecclesfield. He was educated at Charterhouse and had a varied career, taking a job on the 'shop floor' at a Sheffield steelworks until his health deteriorated. He spent a year recovering in Switzerland, returned to the steelworks but then became a land agent in Ireland. He then became a member of the stockbroking firm of Smith, Holmes and Judge, which had offices in York Street, Sheffield. His health broke down again in 1926, forcing his retirement. At the age of 60, he moved to Scotland where he became a gentleman farmer. He had a lifelong interest in archaeology and was a founder member of the Hunter Archaeological Society. He married Barbara Helen Batt of Witney in July 1908.

His brothers seem to have enjoyed better health, and at least six of them were officers during the Great War. His eldest brother, Colonel William MacKenzie Smith D.S.O., commanded the Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoon Yeomanry when they left for France in 1914. Two other brothers were Majors in the Yorkshire Dragoons, and another a Lieutenant. In his writings, D.T. Smith refers to the regiment being waggishly known as "Smith's Horse"! His youngest brother, Major George MacKenzie Smith, East Lancs. Regt., was taken prisoner. All the brothers returned home from war, although their cousin, Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Stoney Smith D.S.O., commanding 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regt., died after being shot by a sniper whilst inspecting trenches in the Ypres Salient, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1915.

David Thurston Smith, formerly of Barnes Hall, near Ecclesfield, was in the city centre at the time of the Zeppelin raid. He recounts his memories of that night:

*During the 1914-18 war years, the city was an arsenal and therefore a target for enemy attack - Zeppelins got there. I was in the town the night they arrived - it was a weird experience; there was no spitting of anti-aircraft guns, no whirr of fighter planes, no excitement of an active defence to relieve the tension. The city was plunged into darkness, and sat under a pall of smoke sent up from factory chimneys, to be shot at without power of reply. The hum of airship engines could be heard, but nothing seen - the noise would stop for some minutes while the enemy attempted to locate targets, then the whirr of engines would recommence as she moved to a new station - a flash, and a shattering crash announced she had dropped one more bomb. For how long this went on, I should not at this distance of time care to say, but it was for a considerable period. I walked across the town to an Orphanage of which I had for some years been a director, as I feared panic might break out among the children. On turning out of a by-street into a main thorough-fare I found myself in a crowd surrounding a bookie, who, standing on a chair with his clerk beside him, was laying 5 to 1 the Parish Church, 6 to 4 the Town Hall, etcetera, etcetera. I don't remember the exact market odds of the principal buildings, but he was doing a roaring trade.*

*I would have given much for the Kaiser to have seen these "strafed" Yorkshiremen trying to find a winner. When I arrived at the Orphanage, the Matron, with commendable common sense and courage, had got her charges out of bed and into the playground. She had told them fireworks were being*

*banged off in celebration of a victory; each time a bomb exploded, the children cheered lustily. When it was over they were treated to hot drinks and buns and returned to bed without any idea that they had been near danger.*  
David Thurston Smith, Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society, 1960, vol. 8, pages 88-89.

The log book of Ecclesfield Junior School records the following entry for the morning after the raid:

*A drop in the attendance this morning on account of the Zeppelin visit to Sheffield. Many people have never been to bed during the night.* Ecclesfield Town Junior School Log Book, 26<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

### 1917: “A wartime romance in the year with the heaviest village war death toll”

1917 was the year with the highest war death toll of Ecclesfield men. 20 out of the 54 Great War dead named on Ecclesfield War Memorial died during this year. Instead of focusing on these casualties, however, here is the story of a wartime romance between a wounded soldier and a nurse. In October 1917, the Penistone and Stocksbridge Express reported:



Ranmoor Hospital (converted from Ranmoor Council School).

Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1915, page 5.

## Ecclesfield Military Wedding

### Gregory - Sutherland

*A military wedding of widespread interest to the village and district was solemnized at the Ecclesfield Wesleyan chapel on Friday. The parties were Sister Nellie Gregory, of the Ranmoor Military Hospital, Sheffield, daughter of the late John and Mrs. Gregory of Hartley Brook, Ecclesfield, and Mr. James Robertson Sutherland, eldest son of Mr. and the late Mrs. Sutherland of Bilbster, Wick. N.B. The bridegroom is a discharged trooper, having been wounded in the battle of Gallipoli whilst serving with the Scottish Horse Regiment, and he was nursed back to health at the Ranmoor Hospital.*

*The bride, who was given away by her brother... looked exceedingly becoming in her lovely dress of cream moiré silk with white hat and gold trimmings to match, carrying a bouquet of pink carnations and white heather... The bridegroom was supported by Sergeant Richardson (R.A.M.C.), of the Third Northern Hospital... The service, which was fully choral, was opened by singing "O perfect love". Amongst those present were the nursing staff from Ranmoor Hospital... and a large number of wounded soldiers.*

*At the close of the service... the bridal party left the church to the strains of the Wedding March. A guard of honour was formed at the entrance by a party of wounded soldiers. Leaving the chapel, the guests were led by Piper Scott (Tyneside Scottish Regiment), playing the bagpipes, to the Wesleyan schoolroom, where Mrs. Gregory (mother of the bride), who is 83 years of age, and a member of the oldest family in the village, entertained a large wedding party, including 20 wounded comrades from the Sheffield Hospital. Among the guests was Miss Sutherland (Wick)...*

*On leaving Sheffield for the honeymoon, the bride and bridegroom were drawn through the streets in carriage by sixteen wounded soldiers. The honeymoon is being spent at Buxton. Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 20<sup>th</sup> October 1917, page 4.*

James Robertson Sutherland was born at Haster, near Wick, on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1880, the eldest son of Robertson Sutherland, a Master Blacksmith, and his wife Elizabeth. The family smithy was, and still is, on the main road between Wick and Thurso in the extreme north east corner of Scotland. In 2019, we had the privilege of visiting the present blacksmith, Mr. William Sutherland, who is James Robertson Sutherland's great nephew.



Haster Smithy, near Wick, Scotland (photo: Yvonne Ridgeway).

Incidentally, the Sutherland family's smithy is located within Stirkoke Estate, which belonged to the family of General Henry Sinclair Horne, an artillery officer who went on to command the British First Army during the Great War. Most of James Robertson Sutherland's immediate relatives are buried in Wick Cemetery, and General Horne is buried in the same cemetery, having died suddenly of natural causes whilst out shooting on his Stirkoke Estate in 1929.





James Robertson Sutherland did not go in to the family business of blacksmithing. Instead, he was apprenticed to an Ironmonger in Wick. He later was employed by Edinburgh Corporation as an Electric Station clerk. In 1913, James Robertson Sutherland married Jessie Bain, at Wick. Jessie was the daughter of Robert Bain, a deep-sea diver. It seems likely that this Robert Bain met the famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, as a young man.

The Stevenson family were famous lighthouse builders. In the 1860s, they initiated a breakwater construction project in Wick. They experienced setback after setback, due to the destructive power of the sea. Robert Louis Stevenson was

a member of this family. He reluctantly worked as a trainee engineer in Wick, with his father. Whilst there, he made his own maiden deep-sea dive. He later wrote about the experience:

Grave of Henry Sinclair Horne, Wick Cemetery.

*To go down in the diving-dress, that was my absorbing fancy; and with the countenance of a certain handsome scamp of a diver, Bob Bain by name, I gratified the whim... Bob Bain had five shillings for his trouble, and I had done what I desired. It was one of the best things I got from my education as an engineer. Across the Plains by Robert Louis Stevenson.*

Sadly, James Robertson Sutherland's new bride, Jessie Bain, was in poor health. Only two months after their wedding, she died at Edinburgh Infirmary, from long term heart problems.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1914, the widowed James Robertson Sutherland enlisted in the Scottish Horse Regiment, where he served until receiving a shot to the chest at Suvla

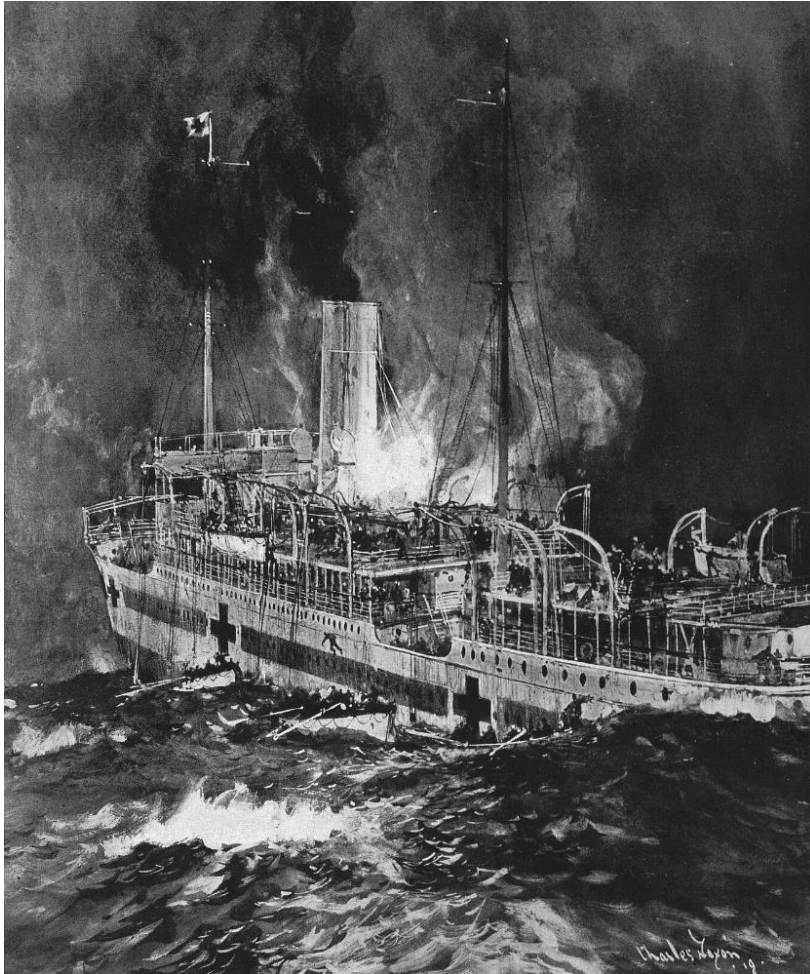
Bay, Gallipoli on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1915. He was discharged from the army as a consequence of his wounds, and spent some time in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern General Hospital in Sheffield recovering. This is where he met his second wife-to-be, Nellie Gregory. He found a job as a Storekeeper with Sheffield Corporation. However, his married life with former nurse Nellie did not last long. He sadly died in November 1919 from stomach cancer, and is buried in Ecclesfield Churchyard Extension. He is also remembered on the family monument in Wick Cemetery.

His widow, Nellie, wanted to return to nursing and start up a nursing home. However, she did not have the money to do so. She received no pension or gratuity from her war service, because she had resigned voluntarily, to be married. She was awarded the Territorial Force Nursing Service Badge. She remarried, in Sheffield, in 1921.

### **1918: “Shock at the loss of Village Doctor and the far-reaching consequences of the German Spring Offensive”**

In February 1918 came the shocking news that yet another hospital ship had been sunk. A year earlier, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1917, Germany had declared unrestricted submarine warfare for the second time, and began torpedoing ships without warning. The aim was to strangle Britain to the brink of starvation by stopping her sea trade. However, it also influenced the United States of America’s decision to declare war on Germany.

The Glenart Castle was a Union Castle line steamship, built in 1900, which had been requisitioned for use as a Hospital Ship in 1914. In the early hours of 26<sup>th</sup> February 1918, in the pitch dark, the Glenart Castle was on her way from Newport, Wales, to pick up patients. She was lit up brightly with the regulation Hospital Ship lights, which should have protected her under the Geneva Convention. The sea was moderate to rough.



As the ship's crew prepared to change watch at around 4am, there was an explosion on the ship's starboard side. It destroyed the engines and plunged the ship into darkness. The electrical generators failed, which rendered the ship's wireless radio equipment inoperable.

The Glenart Castle sank in only seven or eight minutes. The explosion had destroyed some of the lifeboats on her starboard side. Seven of the ship's nine lifeboats were launched, but some were only partially occupied. Only one of the lifeboats withstood the rough seas long enough to be found and rescued. Later, a raft of nine survivors was found by an American destroyer, *USS Parker*. American Naval Ratings jumped into the sea to heroically rescue them, although one survivor later

died.

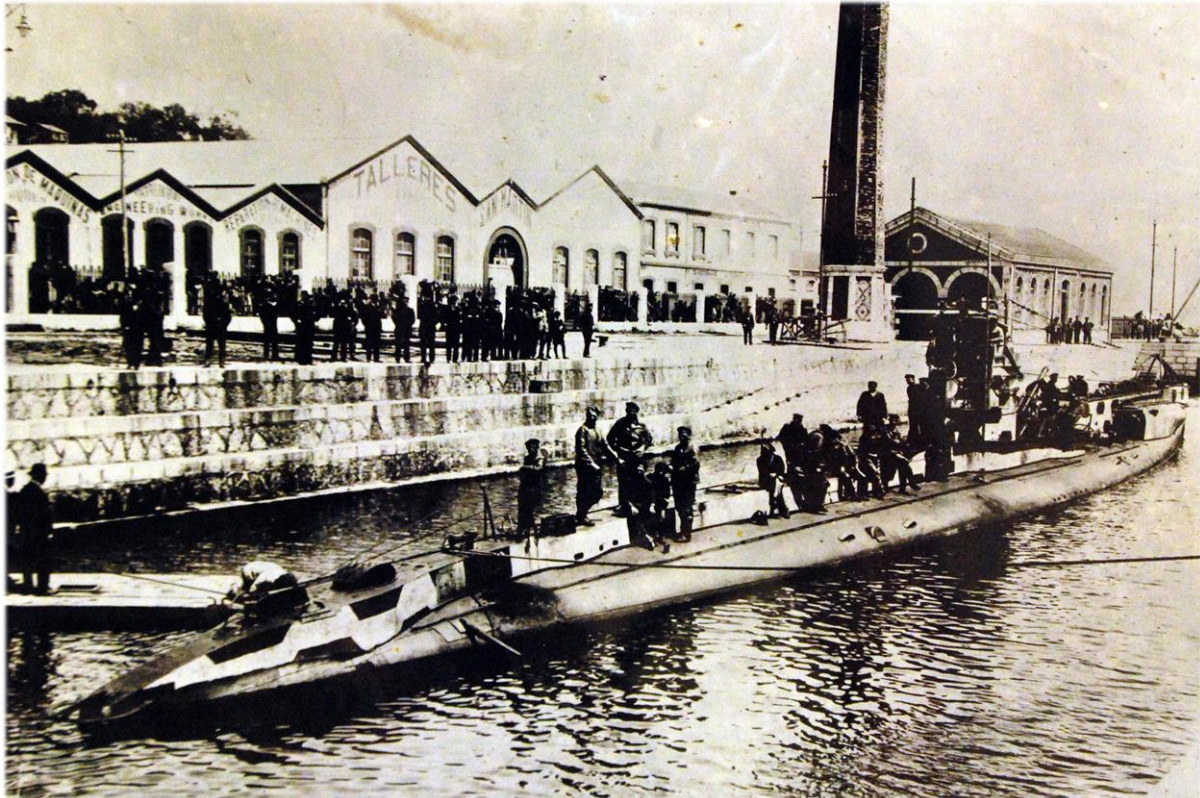
The Glenart Castle. "The Graphic", 9<sup>th</sup> March 1918, page 13.

The "Glenart Castle" was not carrying any patients, but she had 182 crew and medical personnel on board. Only 29 people were saved: 25 of the ship's crew, plus four R.A.M.C. other ranks. 153 people were declared missing. All eight female nurses on board were lost, including two who had previously nursed German Prisoners of War, Sister Beresford and the Australian Sister Blake.

At first there was uncertainty whether the Glenart Castle had hit a mine, or been torpedoed. However, eyewitness accounts confirmed the sighting of a submarine:

*After hearing the order - "every man for himself" - I then slid down the boat's fall with two other men, but before we could cast the falls adrift, the ship sank and I was thrown out of the lifeboat. When I came to the surface I saw a boat, bottom up with three men clinging to it and made my way towards it*

*and hauled myself up on the keel. Soon after I saw what I took to be a schooner coming towards us and we all shouted together, a lot of men close to us in the water also shouted. A minute or two after, I saw it was not a schooner but a submarine on the surface and I said to the man next to me, "we can expect nothing off him, it's the submarine." The submarine was not more than a hundred yards away then and I could distinctly see the outline of the hull and the conning tower." Alfred Bale, Greaser, Glenart Castle, February 1918.*



German UC-56 U-boat at Dock at Santander, Spain, 1918. Wikimedia Commons.

The German submarine responsible was the UC56. In May 1918, UC56 docked in Santander, Spain, for repairs. It was interned there and played no further part in the war. Its Commander, Wilhelm Kieswetter, was granted safe passage back to Germany, thus escaping interrogation for his alleged war crime of sinking a hospital ship. Allegedly, during the Second World War, he again commanded a U-boat, aged in his sixties.

The Glenart Castle tragedy particularly affected the people of Ecclesfield, because one of the village's doctors was missing, believed drowned, in the disaster. Dr. John Addison Stainsby had been born in Darlington, County Durham, the son of a post office clerk.



Dr. J.A. Stainsby (Picture Sheffield)

### Ecclesfield Doctor Missing.

### Feared Lost with the Glenart Castle.

Anxiety is felt at Ecclesfield regarding the fate of Lieutenant John Addison Stainsby, Royal Army Medical Corps, who was on board the ill-fated hospital ship, Glenart Castle, which was sunk in the Bristol Channel on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Lieutenant Stainsby was well known and esteemed throughout the district. He had for over 30 years been a partner in a large medical practice, formerly with the late Dr. Hawthorne, and for a number of years with Dr. Sime. He joined the R.A.M.C. nine months ago, and after a short period of service on land was transferred to the Glenart Castle. As recently as Saturday week, he was in Ecclesfield on leave. He was in Halifax, Nova Scotia, shortly before the disaster to that unhappy city. He was 52 years of age and a bachelor. He was very fond of outdoor sport, and a particularly keen golfer. He was also very fond of cricket, and was a vice-

president of the Ecclesfield club.

*A correspondent writes: "In a peculiar sense, the loss of Lieutenant Stainsby will be most keenly felt in hundreds of households, for apart from his professional knowledge and skill, he possessed qualities which caused him to be held in the highest esteem, and to be regarded by many with genuine affection. As a general practitioner, Lieutenant Stainsby worked exceedingly hard; he showed marked devotion and attention to his patients, and his sympathetic feeling was remarkable".* Penistone and Stocksbridge Express, 9<sup>th</sup> March 1918, page 8.

There is a fine memorial for Dr. Stainsby inside St. Mary's church Ecclesfield, designed by the same gentleman who designed the village war memorial, and dedicated on the same day. Dr. Stainsby's name is also on a small memorial at Wortley Golf Club, along with a few other golfers from the club who died during the war, including Vivian Sumner Simpson, one of the subjects of John Cornwell's book, "The First and the Last of the Sheffield City Battalion".

Now to move on to the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers are in the front line, mid-way between Cambrai and St. Quentin:

*Enemy opened a violent bombardment of all calibres at 4:45am. Intermixed with gas shells, extending back as far as VILLERS Faucon. This lasted six and a half hours. At 11:15am enemy attacked along the whole front. Owing to the heavy mist it was impossible to carry out any observation. At this time all companies were in their battle positions. The enemy reached our positions in SANDBAG ALLEY, where they were held up by our companies holding the RED LINE and the advance of the enemy was checked, and heavy casualties inflicted...*

*At around 12:30pm the troops on our right flank, which were holding the LEMPIRE EAST defences, were seen to be withdrawing. This exposed our right flank. Shortly afterwards the enemy appeared in the villages of LEMPIRE and RONSSOY, and brought enfilade fire on our position. "A" and "C" companies were isolated. Our position then became untenable, and withdrawal to the BROWN LINE was commenced from the left. This was carried out in good order, supported by rifle and Lewis Gun fire.*

*The Battalion occupied the BROWN LINE about 3pm where it remained in position until relieved by the 4th Infantry Brigade at about 4am on 22nd March 1918.*

War Diary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, March 1918. The National Archives, WO-95-1974-2.

One of the officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers killed in action on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Herbert Jackson. Or at least, this is the name by which the army knew him. In December 1915, he had enlisted as a Private in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, in Dublin, giving a Dublin address. He gave his father's name as next of kin, but declared that he did not know his father's address. He was promoted to Acting Sergeant, before obtaining his commission in August 1917.



The former Corn Mill, on the junction of The Common and Mill Road, Ecclesfield.

Photo: Yvonne Ridgeway.

However, Mr. Jackson had not told the Army the whole truth. His name was actually George Herbert Harrison and he was married to Annie Mary Harrison, of 85, Mill Road, Ecclesfield; otherwise known as Ecclesfield Corn Mill. His wife was the Corn Miller's daughter. They'd married in Sheffield in 1906, and had one child: Margaret Cynthia Annie Harrison. By 1918, his wife had caught up with her husband's whereabouts. She wrote to the War Office:

The Mill, Ecclesfield, May 29<sup>th</sup> 1918.

*Dear Sirs,*

*I am advised by Sir Charles McGregor, Banker of my late husband, Second Lieutenant H. Jackson, Royal Dublin Fusiliers (alias G.H. Harrison), who was killed in France March 21<sup>st</sup> 1918 to apply to you for the amount due to his estate.*

*Until you pay it over to me I cannot draw his balance at the bank. If you will kindly see into this as soon as possible I shall be grateful. I am totally dependent on my pension, very little of which I have drawn up to now and I*

*have a daughter aged 11 years, dependant on me. There are school fees owing and I should be greatly obliged if you will see into this matter at once.*

*Thanking you.*

*Faithfully yours,*

*Mrs. A.M. Harrison.*

(The National Archives, WO 339/104606).

However, the War Office received other letters regarding Second Lieutenant Jackson, alias George Herbert Harrison. These letters are from a Miss. Ada Lorrie Taylor.

10 Vernon Terrace, Sheffield, June 16<sup>th</sup> 1918.

*Dear Sirs,*

*I wish to notify you of the mistake in the addressing of the wire, regarding the death of Second Lieutenant H. Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers on March 21<sup>st</sup>. I think the mistake has been made by him in filling up his forms as he has put his name and my address. He had left home and all his correspondence was always sent to my address.*

*All communications should be addressed in my name to this address, as he had only me.*

*I would like this mistake rectifying, chance there is another correspondence.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Miss Ada L. Taylor.*

(The National Archives, WO 339/104606).

Miss Taylor was a young woman born in Scissett, West Yorkshire. She was an Elementary School teacher. Soon, the War Office started to receive letters from Miss. Taylor's solicitors.

The Secretary, 6, Paradise Square, Sheffield, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1918.

*Sir, Miss Taylor of 10, Vernon Terrace, Sheffield, has shown us your letter of 24<sup>th</sup> instant, in reply to one of hers of the previous month, with regard to Second Lieutenant H. Jackson of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.*

*Miss Taylor has shown us a letter from Lieutenant Jackson to herself, dated November last, in which the following paragraphs occurs:*

*"We have to make a Will, darling, and I am making mine in your favour. I would rather you have all my belongings, darling, than anyone else, in case*



*anything does happen, but I don't think anything will dear, so don't worry. You understand dear, don't you?"*

*Miss Taylor has no information that Lieutenant Jackson actually followed this up by making a Will, but from our impression and what you say, we should think it probable he never did so.*

*It appears to us, however, that the letter in question is in fact a "Soldier's Will" in favour of Miss. Taylor and would be admitted to Probate, but we should be glad to have the benefit of your views on the subject, or any assistance.*

*In the meantime, in view of the fact that probably any effects or funds belong to Miss. Taylor, will you please not part with them until the matter has been gone into.*

*We are, Sir, your obedient servant,*

*Bramley and Son, Solicitors.*

(The National Archives, WO 339/104606).

And so, the Will was passed, in favour of Miss. Ada Lorrie Taylor. However, the Lieutenant's belongings were never found: they remained missing, along with him (he is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial). Lieutenant Jackson (alias Harrison) seems to have incurred an overdraft, which would have been deducted from the sum of money that Miss. Taylor received from the Will. Miss Taylor also received his war medals, "death plaque" and scroll.

Although there are references in Mrs. Harrison's early letters about receiving a pension for herself and their daughter, there are no official pension records (apart from an index card) showing whether this support continued. It seems unlikely that it did, because the next official record that we find for her is a marriage certificate, at St. Mary's church Ecclesfield, dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. One hopes that this signified a happy new start for the former Mrs. Harrison. Certainly, Ecclesfield's War Memorial does not include her first husband's name! (The names on the war memorial were put forward by members of the local community, after the war).

As for Miss Ada Lorrie Taylor, she furthered her career in teaching. By the late 1930s, she was Headmistress of an Elementary School near Dinnington. She did eventually marry, but not until 1946, when she would have been nearly 60 years old. Her husband died only four years later. When she eventually passed away at the age of 85, in 1972, she herself did not leave a Will, but died intestate.

Sources:



It is believed it was salvaged by a British Army chaplain and placed in All Saints Church in Tinwell, Rutland.  
More than a century later, it is to be taken back.



### **Doingt's church was destroyed in the fighting**

Doingt, near Amiens, was one of many settlements wiped from the map during the 1916 campaign that claimed more than 300,000 lives.

Former All Saints church warden June Dodkin said: "On Remembrance Day 2018 we were commemorating the centenary of the war and the village priest asked if there was anything interesting in the church.

"We suggested the crucifix which we knew, from records, had come from Doingt.

"There was a 16-year-old boy in the congregation, Jonno McDevitt. He looked at it and said 'shouldn't we send it back?'

"We were all a bit stunned. It had never occurred to anyone as we thought Doingt was destroyed.

"But he got his phone out, looked it up and that's when we discovered the place - and the church - had been rebuilt."

Mrs Dodkin said that discovery led to emails being sent to Doingt's mayor, raising the prospect of sending the cross back.

Special permission was granted by the Diocese of Peterborough.



The crucifix will be returned to Doingt's rebuilt church

The coronavirus pandemic put the plan on hold, but a 10-strong delegation from Tinwell will take the 22in (56cm) oak cross, bearing the figure of Jesus, back to Doingt in June.

Mrs Dodkin added: "They are extremely excited about the prospect of the cross being returned in Doingt - they were very surprised to hear it has been in our church all this time - and we are looking forward to taking it.

"They are arranging a number of events, receptions and ceremonies to mark the occasion.

"It sounds like we will be very well looked after."

Rev Olwen Woolcock, priest-in-charge of the parishes of Ketton and Tinwell, said there had been several false starts in the attempts to discover how the cross had come from Doingt to Rutland.

The answer came, she said, from Sir Giles Floyd who worships at All Saints who explained the cross was found by Parson Percy Hooson.

Parson Hooson served during the Somme campaign as a chaplain and later took up a post at Tinwell in 1932.

She said: "Sir Giles told us Parson Hooson, described by his family as a great forager, picked it up from among the rubble of the battlefield.

"We assume he brought the crucifix with him and placed it on the altar."



Photographer Vedat Acikalin, who captured the moment, remarked: 'I didn't expect them to do anything like that, it was very emotional for me when I saw this immediate bond, this friendship between them, I had tears in my eyes.'

Len said of the meeting: 'I had nothing against the Turks. They are good people. I respect them. They were just defending their home ground.'

'I have no hatred for Johnnies,' replied Adil, 'but we were doing our duty defending our motherland.'

Len and Adil were two of about 60 veterans who made the pilgrimage to Gallipoli to mark the 75th anniversary of the battle.

Adil died a few months after this photograph was taken, and Len passed away in 1999, aged 101.

Photo credit: Vedat Acikalin



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**Menin Gate Ceremony - Ypres - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Branch Members, Steve and Jill Brunt laid a wreath on behalf of the Friends of Spital Cemetery (Steve is Chairman) on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Steve was also privileged to speak The Exhortation. The famous gateway is temporarily closed for much needed restoration and renovation work to be carried out by the CWGC. Despite this the nightly ceremony still goes ahead at 8pm each evening, with the wreath laying taking place just outside the gate. Steve has kindly shared some photographs (courtesy of The Last

Post Association photographer) of the ceremony - I particularly like the one of Steve and Jill with the renowned Ypres Fire Brigade buglers.







## The Strange Case of Oskar Daubmann

German soldier Oskar Daubmann was listed as missing on the Somme in 1916. In 1924 Oskar's parents received news that their son was still alive. They dismissed it as a hoax. But then in 1932 Oskar walked back into their lives. Oscar told a remarkable story of being captured by the French, and then sentenced to 20 years imprisonment on a penal colony. Miraculously he escaped.

Oskar's overjoyed parents and old regimental colleagues wholeheartedly embraced him. Oskar's wrongful imprisonment became an international sensation. The German press used it to stir up a hate campaign against France.

Yet the French said they had no archival evidence to support Oskar's story. And then when Daubmann was giving a speech, an old man purportedly stood up, and shouted, 'You are not Daubmann. You are my son, Alfred Hummel. Get down from that platform, you faker!' With these growing inconsistencies in Oskar's story, he was arrested in October 1932, and charged with fraud. Oskar's parents collapsed when they heard the news. In court, officials proved that the accused was, in deed, Hummel, a petty thief, and tailor who had reputedly purchased a uniform that contained Oskar's identity papers in a pocket.

One sympathises with Oscar's parents who lost their beloved son twice.



