

HUTTONS AMBO WAR MEMORIAL

LANCE CORPORAL BENJAMIN WATERWORTH

Born 1893- Killed in action-10/10/1918

Benjamin Waterworth was born in Huttons Ambo. The census of 1901 records him living with his parents, William and Mary in Low Hutton. His father's occupation is given as agricultural labourer. By 1911 William Waterworth is recorded as a "widower" and his occupation is noted as "log cutter/labourer" , Benjamin is not recorded in the census for Huttons Ambo in 1911.

In 1913 at Sledmere, Benjamin joined the Army Reserve, "The Waggoners", he was 20 years of age and gave his occupation as "Farm Service". He was 5' 6 inches tall and gave his religion as Wesleyan. The army reserve at Sledmere was the initiative of Sir Mark Sykes who recognized the need for an established transport and service corps in the event of War.

At the time of Benjamin Waterworth's enlistment he would appear to have worked on the farm of a Mr Clark at Tibthorpe .

Benjamin Waterworth initially joined the East Yorks regiment, however owing to amalgamation of regiments, at the time of his death in October 1918 he was serving in the 18th Lancashire Hussars, Kings Liverpool Regiment. Latterly this regiment was attached to the 199th Brigade, 2nd East Lancashire and was part of the Fourth Army which was part of the "Advance to Victory" between August 1918 and the Armistice. On the 9-10th October 1918 the allies advanced rapidly over some 8 miles as the Germans withdrew to the Selle River. On the 10th October the 18th Battalion advanced at Montay on the Selle but found the banks of the river wired and were unable to cross. It is likely that it was during the course of this action that Benjamin Waterworth was killed. He has no known grave and is commemorated at the Vis -en- Artois Memorial , Panel 3 and 4

CORPORAL WALTER DARLEY

Born 5th July 1881- Died of wounds 27/10/14

2nd Bn King Own Yorkshire Light Infantry [formerly Yorkshire Regiment] Died 27.10.14 aged 33. Buried Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

The Darley family lived at Quarry Cottages, this would seem to have been a group of houses which were on the site of what is now “The Redding’s”, next to the village shop. Walter is recorded as living at “Cottage 23” also in Low Hutton probably near the post office [now West Croft], aged 9, with William Smith, a joiner [57] and his wife Maria [28], [formerly Darley] as well as his sister Agnes [then 6 months]. His mother Maria later moved to Malton and in 1914 was Maria Hodgson.

In 1911 Walter Darley, then 29, was working for a Mr John Stewart at Yapham Hall, Pocklington as a “Horseman” on the farm.

He enlisted in Malton with the Yorkshire Hussars and served with Alexandra Princess of Wales own Yorkshire Regiment, 2nd Battalion, The Green Howards, and went to France with the British Expeditionary Force, disembarking on the 5/10/14. The Green Howards arrived at Ypres on 14/10/14. Having arrived they dug trenches north of the cross roads, east of the town. They occupied those trenches on the 16th October and held them until 27/10/14 despite weeks of intensive attacks and heavy losses. Following their relief they marched into Loker, an officer present described them thus:

“... they had three weeks growth of beard and dirt on their faces. Their eyes were sunken into their heads. They had not had their boots off for over three weeks; had been under hellish fire practically the whole of the time, subjected day and night to continual attacks which they had always repulsed..”

Walter Darley was wounded during this, the first Battle of Ypres and died of his wounds on 27/10/14. His death was recorded in the Hull Daily Mail on 4/12/14

He is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery [3B2b] his grave records that he was born in Huttons Ambo on 5th July 1881 and the inscription reads “Rest in Peace from his loving Mother”

PRIVATE JOHN WILLIAM KELSEY

Born 1880- Died 20/9/18 whilst a Prisoner of War

Born in 1880, in Huttons Ambo, his father was Robert Kelsey . In 1891, when he was 11, he is recorded as a “scholar” ie likely to have been attending the village school along with Walter Darley [see above] who lived next door. In 1901 he was living with his parents and his occupation was recorded as “Quarryman at the Sand Works” By 1911 he was married to Mary and living with his parents. His occupation was ‘Garden Labourer” employed by Colonel Mark Sykes. His army pension records note that at the time of his death, he had a son, George William Kelsey born 1912.

He enlisted at Malton on 29/11/15 aged 36 years and 4 months and was assigned to the Yorkshire Regiment. He was placed in the Army Reserve and was not fully mobilized until 5/9/17. His medical records show that he was 5' 1 inch in height.

He joined his unit in 5th Yorkshire Regiment [Green Howards] on the 30/4/18 but on the 15th May 1918 he was transferred to the 7th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. This was a “Pioneer Battalion” whose work varied but included digging trenches/tunnelling and other such tasks. This transfer may have arisen as a result of his previous occupation as a “Quarryman”The 7thBattalion was attached to the 50th [Northumbrian] Division.

In April/May 1918 British Troops were sent to relieve the French in and around Craonne, in the Champagne Region of France. The 50th Division had been sent to rest and “embed” new recruits in what had been a relatively quiet area. They were holding the Eastern Section of Chemin Des Dames Ridge. In the last part of May there were indications that the Germans were planning an offensive and by the 26th May this was fully anticipated. In fact this was a huge German offensive, it began at 1am on the 26th May 1918 when some 4000 pieces of artillery opened fire on the British Lines, firing over 2million shells, they are described as having “saturated” the British gun emplacements, isolated HQs and disorientated the soldiers. Four types of gas were used and over the course of the day the German force [including Adolf Hitler] advanced 12 miles over a 35 mile front, completely overrunning the allied positions. By the 30th May they had advanced 40 miles and reached the Marne.

An officer present and serving adjacent to the 50th Division gave this description of the effect of a gas attack:-

'Crowded with jostling, sweating humanity the dugouts reeked, and to make matters worse headquarters had no sooner got below than the gas began to filter down. Gas masks were hurriedly donned and anti-gas precautions taken - the entrances closed with saturated blankets and braziers were lighted on the stairs. If gas could not enter, neither could the air.'

Many British Prisoners were taken during this offensive and it is likely that John Kelsey was one of them given the fact that he was captured on the 27th May 1918. He was recorded as "Missing" in his Army records. In fact his Army records contain an "unofficial" notification of death, dated 4/3/19, taken from German Army Lists. He died on the 20/9/18 at Montcornet, which was a German Hospital Centre, his cause of death recorded as "Cardiac Weakness". He is buried in Montcornet Cemetery, plot C6

A report in the Yorkshire Gazette in January 1919 records that he died a captive in German hands on 20th September and that he fell ill through lack of food and "virtually died of starvation", leaving a widow and son

PRIVATE FRANK GILL

Born 1898- Died 4/3/15

Frank Gill was born in Huttons Ambo in 1898. The 1911 Census shows him living with his father Francis, aged 60 and his mother Emily (49). They lived at Wood House [in the Woods by the Railway Line] and his father Francis Gill was the Woodman on the Hutton's Ambo Estate.

Frank Gill enlisted at Scarborough and joined the 5th Yorks Battalion, Princess of Wales's own Yorkshire Regiment. Prior to enlistment he had been a Railway porter at Ebberston station.

He died prior to embarkation on the 14th March 1915.

His Death Certificate records that he died at 41 Jesmond Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne. [This may have been part of the Northern General Hospital which was housed at the University during the First War] His cause of death is given as:-

- (a) Malignant Measles- 8 days
- (b) Broncho-Pneumonia- 3 days

His father was with him when he died.

The War Graves documentation notes under remarks in relation to his grave, “Add Father”

Frank Gill is buried in Huttons Ambo Churchyard in the rear graveyard, his father is buried alongside him.

PRIVATE ALFRED HARRISON

Born 1877- Killed in action 20/9/17

Alfred Harrison was born in 1877 at Leavening the son of Frederick and Martha Harrison who by 1891 lived and farmed at Roughborough Farm with Alfred and their family. In 1901 Alfred Harrison, aged 23, was living in Sculcoates Hull with his wife Gertrude who was herself from Huttons Ambo. He was an employed Joiner. By 1911 Alfred was back living in High Hutton by this time he was working “on his own account” It is unclear when he enlisted but he did so at Malton and at the time of his death he was serving with the 8th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment [The Green Howards]. In 1917 the 8th Battalion fought at the Battle of Messine Ridge and latterly the Third Battle of Ypres, better known as “Passchendaele”. This offensive lasted from the 31st July 1917 until the 6/11/17 during the course of which the Allies advanced 5 miles and suffered 300,000 casualties. On the 20th September the Battle of Menin Ridge began. In the early hours of the 20th September the Green Howards advanced and took “Inverness Copse” and ‘Tower Hamlets”, fighting was heavy, at times hand to hand and “Tower Hamlets” was strongly fortified. The Green Howards pressed on to the Menin Road. Given that Alfred Harrison was killed in action on 20/9/17 it is likely that it was in this offensive.

His body was never recovered and he is commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial on Panels 52 to 54 and 162A

At the time of his death his wife, Gertrude was living at Netherby House. 100 years later, Georgie Wainwright, also of Roughborough Farm, visited Tyne Cot Memorial and found Alfred Harrison’s name.

DRIVER GEORGE BROWN

Born 1897-Died 12/1/15

George Brown was born in Salton [nr Kirbymoorside] in around 1897, the son of William and Grace Brown. His father was recorded as a “Farm Yard Man”. In 1911, aged 14, George Brown was a “Cow Boy” working for Joseph Gowland at Bugthorpe, Stamford Bridge.

In 1913, aged 17, George Brown joined the Waggoner’s Reserve at Westow, he gave his occupation as “Carter” and, presumably was employed in Huttons Ambo given that he featured in a local press report as a “Huttons Ambo Man” and given where he enlisted in the reserve ie Westow.

At the outbreak of war he served in the Army Service Corps as a Waggoner. He died on the 12/1/15 of Pneumonia. He is buried at Longuenesse [St Omer] Souvenir Cemetery, Reserve Park Meerut IA31.

PRIVATE THOMAS FRANCIS BOWES

Born April 1884 Died of wounds 18/10/18

[nb the war memorial records “George” however there are no records of a George Bowes which match the details below.]

In 1891 the Bowes family lived at Quarry Cottages [on the right next to the shop, on the site of what is now “The Reddings”]. Roger Bowes was a “Road Repairer”. He was married to Sarah and they had two children including Margaret Ann.

Thomas Francis Bowes was born in 1894 in Huttons Ambo, his mother Sarah died in 1900 when he was 6 and in 1901 the Bowes family are recorded as living in Low Hutton [possibly on Water Lane somewhere near the old post office, now West Croft]. Roger Bowes is described as “Labourer” and is recorded as having two sons James aged 9, and Thomas aged 7. Thomas’s sister was 20 at the time and lived with the family, she went onto marry and became Margaret Ann May . Roger Bowes, his father, died in 1908.

In 1911 some of the Bowes family were living at cottage 23; this is recorded as being in High Hutton and was next door to Ivy House? . Thomas Francis “Frank” Bowes was 17 by this time and was employed

as a “Horseman” at Low Bellannear Farm, Settrington and that is given as his address in the 1911 census.

Frank joined the Yorkshire Regiment, enlisting at Tadcaster. However he subsequently served with the Machine Gun Corps [41st Battalion].

He died of wounds and is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery near Ypres. The town of Lijssenthoek, some 12 miles from Ypres, had a number of casualty clearing stations and those who died there were usually interred in the nearby cemetery.

Given where and when Frank died it is likely that he was wounded during the Advance in Flanders which included what is known unofficially as the Fifth Battle of Ypres which was between 28/9-2/10 but which ground to a halt, due to heavy rain, mud and lack of supplies, [supplies which, unusually for the time, at one point had to be dropped by air]; and which became, latterly, the Battle of Courtrai]

On 28th September 1918 the Allied Army Group of Flanders attacked and broke through the German Front to the north, east and south of the city of Ypres. The progress of the advance was significant, with the recapture of the Kemmelberg and several miles of territory lost to the German advance in April earlier that year. Messine and Passchendaele were retaken between 28/29th September. On the 14th October the offensive recommenced and between the 14th and 19th the allies pushed the German army back and Courtrai was taken on the 19th October

Frank is buried at XXX G9 [4147]. His inscription “Thy will be done” was requested by Mrs MA May [his sister Margaret]

Frank is also commemorated on his mother’s gravestone in Huttons Ambo churchyard

PRIVATE GEORGE ARUNDALE

Born 1900-Died accidentally 26/5/19

George Arundale was the son of George and Mary Arundale of Egerton Street Middlesborough. He enlisted on the 2nd June 1918. Many First World War records were destroyed as a result of enemy action in the Second World War. George Arundale’s survives but it is damaged and in pieces. When he enlisted he gave his occupation as “Horseman” and his address as “High G..., Huttons Ambo” Suggesting that he had come to Huttons Ambo as a result of his employment.

He served in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment and was posted to France on 20/11/1918 and thereafter, in March 1919 to Germany. He was killed on 26/5/19, he was driving a general service wagon to Arhem when he was struck by a train. His records contain a record of a Court of Enquiry that was held into his death. Various witnesses gave evidence including a local man, Josef Gogliatti. He had been riding his bicycle behind a wagon being driven by George Arundale on the Erp/Lechenicom Road, he noted the train "overtaking" them and went on:-

"... the soldier driving the English Wagon was pulling to the right of the road but as the train got nearer the horses got frightened and the horse on the left side fell. The driver was thrown out of the wagon and caught by the first carriage of the train which dragged him about three metres he was then caught by the second carriage which ran over him killing him instantly"

The finding of the Court of Enquiry was that this was an accident and no blame attached to any individual.

On the 31st May 1919, George Arundale's father wrote asking if his son's body could be returned home for burial. No reply is in the records but George was buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery, Cologne, Plot IVA 17.

Rather poignantly a list of George Arundale's personal effects is contained within the record and these were returned to his father, they include 4 buttons, 1 bootlace and "..1 cigarette (Players)"

DRIVER WILFRED EVERETT **Born 1893 – Killed in Action 21/10/16**

Wilfred Everett was born in Wakefield in 1893 the son of Walter and Annie Everett. In 1901 the family were living in Kirkstall Leeds.

By 1911 Wilfred, by then aged 18, was the footman at Huttons Ambo Hall. He was one of a staff of 9 employed by Mr Lund a "worsted spinner and worsted coating manufacturer"

Wilfred enlisted at Malton and served as a Driver with the Royal Field Artillery , 283rd Brigade, C Battery, 56th Divison. He arrived in France on the 20th May 1915.

He was killed, along with 5 of his comrades, during the Battle of the Somme, on the 21/10/16.

The 56th Division attacked Le Transloy Ridge (near Morval and Les Boeufs) on the 8th/9th October. They were relieved, by the 4th Division, on the 9th October. However the artillery remained in the line until 31st October.

The following is a record from 280 Brigade [also part of the 56th Division] about what conditions were like

"During the whole of the month of October after heavy and incessant rain the terrain became so bad that it was almost impossible to get vehicles up to the positions. All semblance of a road stopped short at Guillemont, and from there onwards for more than a mile the going was atrocious. Improvised ammunition carriers were made out of the baskets from the ammunition wagons, and for the last part of the operations all ammunition, rations, and water went up by pack animals. It was most difficult to get material up to the guns, and in consequence Officers and men suffered a good deal of discomfort. Enemy shelling was by this time been directed very methodically on Battery areas and all Batteries suffered casualties."

Wilfred Everett is buried at the Guards Cemetery, Lesboeufs [XP 10 (2136)] along with 5 other members of C Battery, 283rd Brigade who also died on 21/10/16. All 6 had been reburied at the Guards Cemetery, seemingly having been exhumed from the same place, suggesting that all 6 died together in circumstances such as those described above

Wilfred Everett's headstone bears the inscription, chosen by his father,
"No greater love than this, he gave of his best"

His death was recorded in a local Wakefield paper where he was recorded as being mourned by his "sorrowing parents....and sweetheart". There is no record of the identity of Wilfred's "sweetheart"

Mrs D Standidge is the great niece of Wilfred Everett and has friends in the village, which she knows well, and has kindly provided information in relation to her great uncle

SECOND WORLD WAR

OFFICER CADET DAVID JOHN WILSON KILLED SANDHURST 29TH JANUARY 1941

David John Wilson, Grenadier Guards, was the son of Colonel Albert Edward Jacob Wilson DSO and Diane Wilson [nee Clayton] of Musley Bank, Huttons Ambo.

His father is commemorated in Huttons Ambo Church, on the floor of the Lady Chapel. David Wilson, along with his parents is buried in the rear of the churchyard.

David Wilson was killed at Sandhurst on the night of the 29th January 1941 when it was bombed, killing a number of cadets. There are few records available in relation to it but an account was given in relation to the events of that evening by the late actor Richard Todd, who himself, was wounded that night. He wrote of it as follows:-

"It was Dining Out night, and there were only a few of us cadets left in our two C Company blocks doing PAD Duty [fire-fighting and rescue] I had just had a bath and was walking along the second floor corridor to my room, clad in pyjamas and with my towel slung over my shoulder. As I left the bathroom, although no alarm had been sounded, I became aware of the woom-woom- woom drone of an enemy intruder twin-engined plane, a sound with which we were quite familiar. ...I had walked only a few paces when the quiet of the evening was shattered, by a heavy explosion, nearby..."

"Then I swear I saw it. Clearly printed in my mind is the sight of the second bomb as it came through the ceiling only yards in front of me and went through the floor of the corridor before exploding somewhere below...It could only have been a fraction of a second before the building all around me was going upwards and outward and I was sailing through the air with the rubble. A second or two later I thumped down on a lawn some thirty or forty yards from the building bits of debris raining down all around me and the air thick with dust and smoke. I had literally been blown through walls that weren't there any more and had traveled quite a distance.. I don't remember how I got back into the building but I knew that I must try to get help for those caught in the collapsed end of the wing. All the electric had failed so I had to scramble as best I could to the

corridor connecting all four blocks. As I reached it I saw figures running toward me from the far end, torchlight stabbing the gloom and dust.. Altogether I had been very lucky. Five young men were killed that night and a dozen or so had been hurt”

PRIVATE RICHARD RAYMOND FOX.

Born 1919- Died 28th May 1940

Richard Raymond Fox was the son of Fred and Ada Fox, of Huttons Ambo and it is believed that they lived at “Slip Inn Cottages” [on the A64]

He served with the 5th Battalion Green Howards [Yorkshire Regiment]. The 5th Battalion was a TA Battalion that was called up on the outbreak of war. The battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force.

“Raymond”Fox was killed on the 28th May 1940 during the retreat to Dunkirk most probably during the battle of the Ypres-Comines Canal. The Ypres-Comines canal was the southern flank of a pocket in Flanders surrounded by the German Army and which had only one exit - Dunkirk. Between 27-30 May the Warneton, Bas Warneton and Comines area was the scene of a battle as the British attempted to hold back the German advance He is buried at Bus House Cemetery Belgium [AA16]

HUTTONS AMBO – ROLL OF HONOUR

The Yorkshire Gazette [Malton 7/8/15] contained a list of those who enlisted as well as some pictures of those individuals. Peter Lealman has also done some research on others. For the sake of completeness those identified are set out below, not least as it indicated the extent of recruitment from one small village

- Corporal Henry Moxon- wounded. Previously served in India but recalled on the outbreak of war
- Gunner Richard Brown RFA- the brother of Mrs C Bowes of Low Hutton
- F Hodgson of the Wagoners Reserve “in France and well” [7/8/15]
- Private William Marr, wounded at Ypres 26th April
- Private B Waterworth [see above]
- Gunner Walter Brown RHA another brother of Mrs C Bowes, a farm servant
- Corporal Walter Darley [see above]

- Driver J Milson RFA the son of Mr and Mrs Sam Milson of Huttons Ambo station. Enlisted 12/9/14 having previously worked for Mr Dent, fishmonger of Malton. [*Wounded Ypres*]
- Driver Ernest Mounce Wagoner's Reserve, employed at the Rosedale Mines
- Driver John Stones ASC son of Mr and Mrs W Stones Low Hutton, a farm servant with Mr Duggleby of Sherburn
- Private Frank Gill [see above]
- Driver Joseph Etty RFA son of Mr and Mrs J Etty of HA, he a farm servant with Mr Mason
- Gunner John Etty RFA son of Mr and Mrs J Etty of HA, he was a farm servant with Mr Green, Firby
- Driver George Edward Monkman, Wagoner's Reserve , the son of Mrs H Monkman of Bar Farm
- Driver Ernest Monkman RFA, whose parents were from Clitheroe, was a groom with Mr Lund, Huttons Ambo Hall
- Driver Wilfred Everett [see above]
- Gunner JW Farndale RFA the son of Mr and Mrs J Farndale was on the farm of Mr Duffitt of Whitwell
- Private James Fieldhouse was a groom with Mr Lund of Huttons Ambo Hall
- Lance Corporal Tom Etty, Bedfordshire Regiment, the son of Mr and Mrs Etty of Huttons Ambo, a gardener at Highfield Hall St Alban's [*wounded for a second time in September 1917*]
- Private George Farndale, son of Mr and Mrs Farndale,he was a servant with Mr Cooper at Langton Wold
- Driver Fred Grey, Wagoner's Reserve, son of Mr and Mrs J Gray, was a farm servant with Mr S Hall at Kennythorpe
- Driver Gordon Moxon RFA was a farm servant with Mr Millar, High Gatherley
- Driver Albert Gray ASC son of Mr and Mrs J Gray, he was a farm servant with Mr Meggison of Duggleby

The Gazette noted:-

“The following Huttons Ambo men have also enlisted or were in the Army before war broke out:-

- Driver Chas Revis, Wagoner's Reserve
- Private Harry Revis, [In India]
- Richard Revis [*of Roughborough?*]
- Driver George Brown [see above]
- Driver Chas Dawson, Wagoner's Reserve
- Driver Fred Strickland Wagonr's Reserve
- Private James Smith [India]
- Driver Benjamin Waterworth [see above]
- Sgt Major Thomas Rickaby [*son of (?) a Mr Rickably a Huttons Ambo Cattle dealer*]
- Private William Layton

Additionally Peter Lealman has identified the following from or with link to Huttons Ambo

- Private William Spencer [enlisted 12/9/14- same day as John Milson] Chauffeur to Mr Lund , Huttons Ambo Hall
- Col and Mrs Starkey of Huttons Ambo Hall moved into the Hall in September 1914, in the same month a list of officers “missing” included a Captain WHJ Barber-Starkey
- Henry Robson drowned from the minesweeper “Euston” on 12/2/1917, his parents were from Huttons Ambo

Re Second War

Peter Lealman has kindly copied a photograph of the 7th North Riding Battalion, Home Guard, No 4 Platoon “A Company” Huttons Ambo 1944. From the background it looks as if it was taken in the yard of the old school house

The names of the Home Guard are familiar:-

- George Clint
- John Leedham
- George Bowes
- Francis Brewer
- Ernest Tyreman

- George Heselwood
- John Monkman
- Arthur Milson
- Percy Holt
- Alec Hodgson
- Arthur Featherstone
- Jack Revis
- John Leedham [snr]
- Maurice Revis
- Ernest Milner
- Albert Englan