

## Scriven: Service in the Two World Wars

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Prior to the twentieth century, Scriven's involvement with war was inextricably linked to the activities of the Slingsby family who owned Scriven Hall and whilst history records that fate of those members of the Slingsbys who fought in battle, the men of the village who fought with them usually go unmentioned. Traditionally, village residents worked in either the Hall or on the Slingsby estate and enlistment into the local militia or other armed forces tended to occur only in times of national emergency. The principal involvement of the men from Scriven in military action in this era may be summarised as follows.

After the battle of Bannockburn in 1314, William Slingsby of Scriven was chosen by King Edward III to lead the men from his own district and they took part in the subsequent capture of Berwick and in the battle of Halidon Hill on 19 July 1333 when Scottish forces trying to relieve Berwick were heavily defeated (ref.115). Edward spent the winter of 1334-35 on the Scottish border supported by an army which included Knaresborough men. John de Wauton, William de Slingsby, John de Bereton and Michael del Hill of Aldburgh raised 10 hobelars (light cavalrymen) and 120 footmen and led them during the campaign (ref.116).

During the troubled times of 1535, King Henry VIII called nationally for a muster of men who were fit for military service. The list for 'Screvyn-Cum-Tentergate' survives:

'Thomas Slyngsby, gent., harness for two men.

Archers able persons having no harness- Richard Slater- William Lower- James Wylson- William Dacre- William Dowson- Thomas Kyghley- Robert Jakson- Ralph Yanson- Richard Manerd- John Jakson- Robert Dacre- Robert Hyll- Simon Popylton- William Sclater- John Hyll- William Orom- John Craven- Robert Stynerby- Richard Kyghley- Richard Cormwell- John Mallome- William Turnbull- Richard Craven- George Roundell- Richard Judson- John Hopwood- William Yates- William Coghill- William Erle.

Bylls able persons having no harness- Richard Bolton- Miles Brathwaytt- John Ward- John Slyngsby- John Kyghley, Xpofer (Christopher) Roundell- John Hogson- Roger Syggesworth- Thomas Wylkes- William Woode- Thomas Dobson- Thomas Benson- Thomas Dykson- John Shepherde.'

The list is significant because it not only names the individual men from the parish but it divides them into archers and bill men. Harnesses would have been required for the King's horsemen. The John Slyngsby listed as a bill man is likely to have been the brother of Thomas Slyngsby.

During a subsequent muster in 1595, the Deputy Lieutenants, who included Sir Francis Slingsby who was a cavalry officer serving under King Henry VIII and was the son of Thomas, wrote from

Knaresborough that they had viewed 400 trained soldiers within the 'Wapentake of Claroe' and found them furnished in all things save powder (ref.116). This time though, no names are provided.

During the English Civil War, the Slingsbys were Royalists. Charles Slingsby fought and died with them at Marston Moor, being killed by a sabre stroke which almost severed his neck. He was buried in York Minster. Sir Henry Slingsby of Scriven, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet, (1602-1658) was another supporter of King Charles I. Born at Scriven in 1601, he was the first to offer his services when the King raised troops in the north and agitated continuously for the restoration of the monarchy. He was commissioned as a colonel in the royalist army in December 1643 and escaped from the siege of York the following year (ref.6). Eventually he was charged with plotting the overthrow of Cromwell and beheaded in 1658 (ref.115).

A large number of lead musket balls of the Civil War era have been recovered from the fields around the village, particularly from the fields between Dumb Pots Lane and Boroughbridge Road.

On 5 August 1803, eight Troops (consisting of 344 men) of the Yorkshire Hussars assembled for the first time on Scotton Moor for five days of training. On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1808 the regiment returned to Scotton Moor, this time with a force of 381 men and remained for a two-day exercise. At this time, the soldiers were being used to assist the civil powers in maintaining order during the Luddite riots. 'A' Troop of the Hussars was raised in Knaresborough and a list of their men in 1853 still exists but there is no record of any Scriven man in their ranks at this time although some troops came from both Knaresborough and Scotton (ref.117).

Sir Thomas Turner Slingsby of Scriven (1741-1806) was the 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Britain was calling up civilians into their local militia forces to help counter the threat from Napoleon. A man was however still able to avoid service if, for example, his business affairs made him wish to do so and he could pay a fine instead. Since the fine would have to be paid every time he was balloted for service, which could be every 5 years, many elected instead to appoint a substitute ie to nominate another man to undertake his military service. This would still involve the payment of a fee but, in this case, it would be a single and final payment. In 1793, this payment amounted to £6, plus £2s per week for the support of the substitute's wife and 1s or 1s 6d for each child during the time of training. In this year, Thomas Slingsby was one of two JPs who decided that a labourer, Samuel Rayner of Bilton who chose a substitute, should have his £6 fee paid from the Poor Rate (ref.161).

Sir Charles Slingsby Bart., who was drowned in the river Ure on 4 April 1869 whilst out fox hunting had held a commission in the Royal Horse Guards (ref.160). The War Office, in a notice published in the London Gazette, announced his retirement as a Lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards on 28 September 1847.

The publication of local newspapers in war time began in the nineteenth century and has proved a rich source of information for the historian in relation to individual, named, soldiers. Such accounts have been particularly valuable during the first and second world wars (see below) when huge numbers of men were mobilised for military service. Prior to this, the Harrogate and Knaresborough press did cover the two Anglo-Boer Wars in South Africa (1880-1881 and 1899-1902) and The Harrogate Advertiser did helpfully list the local men who had taken part in the latter conflict

(ref.178). The list included soldiers from Harrogate, Knaresborough, Starbeck and Nidderdale but no mention was made of men from Old Scriven and the housing at New Scriven had still to be built.

## First world War

### Introduction

When war was declared on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, Britain sent its regular army to France as the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). By November 1914, the conflict had become a trench-based war of attrition and the BEF had been supplemented by men from the Territorial battalions, the part-time soldiers who required little or no additional training. At the same time, the recruiting offices were inundated by volunteers who often joined their local regiment together with their friends and work colleagues, giving rise to the now-famous 'Pals battalions' of Lord Kitchener's New Army. More than 1m men had volunteered by January 1915 and many of these men saw their first action in the Somme offensive of July 1916. It was not until January 1916 that the Government passed The Military Service Act, imposing conscription on single men between the ages of 18 and 41 with exemptions for those deemed medically unfit, religious ministers, conscientious objectors and those in essential war-time employment. These conscripted recruits then had to be trained and began to appear at the front in significant numbers in 1917.

The calls for new soldiers began immediately. In their edition of 8<sup>th</sup> August 1914, the Harrogate Advertiser carried Kitchener's famous appeal for 100,000 volunteers between the ages of 19 and 30. The appeal ended with 'God Save the King' (ref.105). Knowing that many men would be seeking to enlist in their local regiment, the 5<sup>th</sup> (Territorial) Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment, the same newspaper also carried a recruitment notice seeking ex-soldiers, ex-Territorials and ex-volunteers still under 35 years of age to report to the Drill Hall in Colliergate, York. Other men who had not previously served were invited to enlist after 12<sup>th</sup> August; information about railway warrants for the journey could be obtained from the police station. The first Knaresborough man to enlist was John Taylor who was to survive the war. Arnold Kellett's book 'Historic Knaresborough' includes a photograph of him with a recruiting sergeant in Knaresborough market place.

The Harrogate, Knaresborough and Ripon Companies of the 5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshires were initially accommodated in temporary barracks at Haxby Road Council School in York but were moved in mid-August to a tented camp off Leeds Road. At this time, the new recruits were occupied by field drills and route marches (ref.106) but in early September notice was given that the Battalion would be sent abroad (ref.107). By mid-September, the Battalion had been brought up to full strength and was awaiting further orders. The men were drawing pay of 3s 1d per day at this time and the flood of recruits had led to the establishment of a new regiment of reserves for the West Yorkshires. Some men though had become tired of waiting to enlist in their local regiment and were going off to join other units; the press described how three Starbeck men at this time had gone off to join the Northumberland Fusiliers (ref.108). This would be one reason why local men became associated with non-local regiments.

In early September 1914, a 'crowded and enthusiastic' meeting was held in the Town Hall at Knaresborough in support of the appeal for Kitchener's New Army, attended by a number of local dignitaries including Charles Henry Reynard Slingsby who owned Scriven Hall and who was shortly to become embroiled in the famous Slingsby illegitimacy case. The meeting was chaired by Mr. C.E.

Charlesworth, High Sheriff of Yorkshire and, in what would now be described as jingoistic fervour, appealed for volunteers for the fight against Germany. The meeting ended with the National anthem. So many people attended that an overflow gathering also took place in the market square. Mr. S.M. Bryde of Kirkman Bank encouraged waverers by offering £3 to every man from Knaresborough who enlisted; it seems that 40 men were recruited as a result of this appeal (ref.107).

Appeals for recruits continued and would do so until the introduction of conscription in 1916. On 18<sup>th</sup> November 1914, 700 uniformed troops marched through the town to the Market Square at another recruitment meeting, following which a number of men were signed up for military service. More joined up the following week when recruitment officers were busy in Knaresborough at the annual statute hirings when many men were freed from their contracts of employment on farms and in service and the Harrogate Herald carried photographs of the recruiting Officer and many of his potential recruits in the bustle of the Market Square and in the Castle Yard (ref.109). This latter meeting was held at Parr's Corner on the High Street with the drums and bugles of the local regiment in attendance. On this occasion, the crowd were addressed by both the Recruiting officer, Captain Kelley and Lieutenant Heynrick of the Belgian Army. The Recruiting Office itself was located in Castle Yard.

At this time, there was some indignation in the town that so many men were volunteering via the Harrogate Barracks or recruiting stations and were being recorded as men from Harrogate rather than Knaresborough. In response, a list was to be published of both names and addresses of the Knaresborough men who had enlisted (ref. 109) but if this was actually done, it does not seem to have been published in the local newspapers.

Despite the patriotic fervour which gripped the country at this time, the importance of food production at home was clearly recognised. A young farmer, working his own farm, was surrounded by recruiting agents at the Knaresborough statute hirings, which took place on market day. He is quoted as saying 'It is a great disappointment to me that I cannot, but if you will manage my farm I'll gladly go'. The conversation was interrupted by an officer who told him 'You are doing far more for your country by growing crops than you possibly could by fighting at the front' (ref.110). Men who volunteered but were refused for whatever reason were entitled to wear a badge which bore the legend 'At least I Offered-1914'.

Such was the shortage of agricultural labour that soldiers would be released to help with the harvest. In the summer of 1915, soldiers training in Britain were granted a furlough of up to 14 days to assist farmers with the hay and corn harvests. A soldier would be paid 4s/day for the work if he provided his own board and lodging or 2s 6d/day if he lodged with the farmer who was not charged for the soldiers' travelling expenses. Only those men with experience of farm work were released in this way (ref.122).

So vital was agricultural production that, because of the resulting labour shortage, the Board of Education in Knaresborough sanctioned the employment of boys with a minimum age of 12 on local farms. This included work in nurseries where boys also replaced the men who had been called up for military service (ref.134).

By November 1914, there were already 40 female nurses from Knaresborough working in local hospitals to attend the already significant influx of wounded men and the town was making considerable efforts to assist the Belgian refugees arriving in Knaresborough who needed accommodation, furniture and upkeep (ref. 109). By March 1915, Knaresborough was accommodating 20 Belgian refugees (ref,118). Whilst nothing has been found to locate any Belgian refugees in Scriven, many residents of Knaresborough helped out in this way, prompting the thanks of one Belgian, a M. Albert Hauters, to write on behalf of his countrymen to the Editor of the Knaresborough Post in January 1917: 'I think it is a special duty to present my heartfelt thanks to the committee of the Belgian refugees and also to show my appreciation of the kindness I met with as a refugee in this town (Knaresborough). I also wish them the luckiest and happiest of New Years' (ref.162).

As would later happen in 1939, the onset of hostilities prompted a number of appeals for donations and subscriptions. Caught up in the wave of patriotism which was sweeping the country, even the schoolchildren became involved in raising funds to help the war effort. In November 1914, the Harrogate Herald reported that children attending the National Schools had given up their pocket money which was used to buy various materials and the resulting items sold at school bazaars raised some £40. Half of this sum was donated to the Belgian Relief Fund and the other half to Princess Mary's Fund (ref.109).

The Knaresborough War Savings Committee was formed in December 1916 to raise funds for the war. By the end of March 1917 a total of £1,607 11s 2d had been subscribed which was some 50% greater than the Committee had dared to hope, with 1,980 individual subscriptions being registered. The body were considerably indebted to the British Womens' Temperance Association for their work in providing both propaganda (presumably patriotic advertisements) and administrative support (ref.168).

The newspapers published appeals for hospitals, motor ambulances, Belgian refugees, the War National Relief Fund, the Harrogate Local Relief Fund (for relieving distress occasioned by the war), The Soldiers Club (for the rest and recreational activities of the many soldiers stationed in the Harrogate area- by December 1914, the newspapers estimated that 1700 soldiers were stationed at Harrogate) and the Harrogate Defence League which provided military training in their spare time for those men ineligible for military service. As Christmas 1914 approached and it became apparent that the war would not be over soon, the appeals were supplemented by fund raising for Christmas dinner for the troops in the area and for winter comforts (scarves) for 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshires, the local regiment. In this latter case, scarves needed to be khaki in colour, 6 ft in length, 12 inches wide and plain knitted.

The citizens of Knaresborough raised sufficient funds to pay for an 'improved wheel ambulance'. We know this was put into service on the western front near Ypres because it was seen there by a local man in 1917 (ref.176). On his way to hospital, Private Ben Thorpe noticed this contrivance and saw an inscription on the side which read 'Presented by the townspeople of Knaresborough'.

The girls in a local munitions works (probably the Greenwood & Batley factory at Farnham) collected money every week for various war comforts for wounded soldiers. In July 1917, the Harrogate herald reported that the latest beneficiary would be Harrogate Hospital and a collection of 25s had been

received, organised by Maggie Fleming who was the 'danger girl on 'C' Block' at the works. The money was to be put to the Wounded Soldiers' Tobacco Fund (ref.173).

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 1917 was designated as 'Hospital Day' in Knaresborough and an event was organised in the town by the local Amalgamated Friendly Societies Council to raise funds for the local hospitals. This included a procession which was formed up in the Market Square and, led by the Boroughbridge Brass Band, proceeded to march down Cheapside, Gracious Street, High Street, through New Scriven and then up Bond End to the Catholic Church where a service was held. The procession included members of the Urban District Council and a troop of Boy Scouts from Leeds who were camping in Knaresborough that weekend. The event raised £30, largely from a house-to-house collection en-route (ref.10).

In December 1917, former female pupils of Knaresborough Grammar School organised an event in the Town Hall to raise funds which would be used to provide comforts for the Knaresborough men at the front. This entertainment was so well supported that many had to stand (ref.180).

Whilst soldiers would be stationed in Harrogate almost from the onset of war, Knaresborough was slower off the mark. The Harrogate Herald announced in February 1915 that a contingent of the Army Service Corps would be billeted in Knaresborough and that the town was pleased to be keeping up with its larger neighbour (ref.111). By the following week however, the situation had changed. The authorities had evidently looked closer at the town and had decided that there were, after all, insufficient billets for the troops in question. Townsfolk in Knaresborough were reported to be disappointed by this swift change although the press offered the hope that the military authorities could still relent and allocate troops to the town which is what had happened previously in the case of Harrogate (ref.112). Eventually, troops did arrive in the town but do not appear to have been billeted at Scriven. In 1916-17, soldiers from the Northants Yeomanry stayed in Knaresborough and the town was sorry when they departed in January 1917 (ref.163).

By March 1915, after the initial rush of volunteers had passed, the authorities targeted men in domestic service. Large adverts appeared in newspapers asking employers to sacrifice their personal convenience and to encourage their butlers, grooms, chauffeurs, gardeners and gamekeepers to enlist. It posed the question, amongst others 'Have you a man digging your garden who should be digging trenches?' The newspapers also printed their own registration forms, inviting readers to complete these for submission to the military authorities (ref.119). Recruitment to the armed forces continued at a pace with further recruitment meetings in Knaresborough Market Place. One such meeting took place on 13 April 1915 and was addressed by Sapper Lupton, a Harrogate man who had just returned from the Western Front. He estimated that there were still 250 single men left in the town who were fit enough for military service and he urged these men to enlist before conscription was introduced (ref.120).

The 2-5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshires, the local regiment, had been training around Harrogate during the winter of 1914-15 and had since moved to Thoresby in Nottinghamshire but were brought back for a recruiting drive within the Ripon Division of West Yorkshire. A very large (almost full page) advertisement was placed in local newspapers headed 'Your Comrades in Arms are Coming For You! informing readers that the men who had already enlisted (and by this time some 600 West Yorkshire men were already at the front) would be returning to the district between 17-24 July 1915 to enrol more recruits (ref. 124). One of the major recruiting stations opened for the purpose was at

Knaresborough. The organisers also asked for volunteers to provide 20 motor vehicles to transport the new recruits from these offices, which were located at Harrogate, Wetherby, Tadcaster, Ripon, Pateley Bridge, Boroughbridge, Knaresborough, Green Hammerton, York and Selby. The exercise produced 18 more recruits from Knaresborough (ref. 124) as part of a total of about 250 men from the District (ref.125).

This pre-conscription recruitment drive culminated with a direct appeal for more men from the King, whose letter was published in full in newspapers. It acknowledged that the end was not in sight and asked 'men of all classes, to come forward voluntarily and take your share in the fight' (ref.130).

Just prior to conscription, the government launched a final appeal for volunteers. Known as the 'Derby Scheme' after Lord Derby who was Director-General of Recruitment in Asquith's administration, men would volunteer now and enlist later, only when absolutely needed. As part of the scheme, married men were advised that they would only be recruited when the supply of eligible single men had been exhausted. The Derby Scheme was generally unsuccessful and was abandoned in December 1915, having recruited just 350,000 men nationally. The following month, the government, now led by Lloyd-George, passed the Military Service Act for mandatory military service ie conscription.

Following the introduction of conscription, men could appeal against military service to a local tribunal who were obliged to consider the value of a man's usual labour, particularly in respect of food production. A case at the Knaresborough Tribunal in March 1916 illustrates the balance being sought. An unnamed farmer employed three men to help work a farm of 133 acres, with 70 acres of ploughing, 100 sheep and a milk round every morning and evening. Two of his men had then been conscripted for military service and the farmer claimed an exemption for each, telling the Tribunal that he would generally have worked the farm with five men and could not operate with less than three. He himself worked a 16 hour day and had tried unsuccessfully to get other men; he had even failed to find a lad for the milk round. The Tribunal recognised that men engaged in work for the national food supply were entitled to exemption and, although the military representative was unsympathetic, both labourers were permitted to remain on the farm (ref.133).

Not everyone would be so fortunate. In another case heard by the Knaresborough tribunal, two brothers both claimed exemption from military service; the verdict was that one of them must serve and the issue was resolved by the toss of a coin (ref.140). Others were granted exemption on condition that they joined the National Volunteer Training Corps, a body established to provide some training for potential soldiers (ref.141). The 15<sup>th</sup> West Riding Battalion National Volunteers which included Harrogate, Knaresborough, Boroughbridge, Green Hammerton, Whixley, and Farnham Companies held training exercises to this end, one of which was held in the fields around Knaresborough and involved the retention and capture of the village of Coneythorpe (ref.144).

In 1917, there was talk of a German invasion of Britain in which the VTC would be called upon to repulse. At this time, the 15<sup>th</sup> WR VTC submitted an application to Knaresborough Rural District Council for a grant of £100 to help equip the men. It was pointed out to the Council that a volunteer cost £5 to fully equip and that there were some 200 men in their district (which excluded the urban part of Knaresborough, Harrogate and Starbeck). It was also pointed out that other councils were giving financial support to their local volunteers; Malton had levied a further 1d on their rates which would yield £190, Easingwold had donated over £200 to the cause, Harrogate had given £250,

Pateley Bridge £50 and Ripon had helped provide uniforms. The Council agreed to pay the volunteers a grant of £100 and noted that 1d on their rate would raise £75 of this sum (ref.166).

In 1917 ie after the introduction of conscription and with the Germans attempting a U Boat blockade around our coasts, the authorities decided, with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> June that year, to exempt all farmers and farm labourers who were engaged on farm work of 'national importance', meaning the production of food for the country (ref.172). Any such men who received their call-up papers were required to alert the West Riding War Agricultural Executive Committee.

Many others had no wish to join up at all. In November 1916, when the newspapers had been filled with casualty lists from the Battle of the Somme, the Harrogate Herald reported that some potential recruits had resorted to fraud to avoid being passed as fit. One had apparently worn a double truss to try and fool the medical inspectors whilst the other had trickled condensed milk into an ear in an attempt to persuade doctors it was a discharge of some sort! (ref.156). Amusing in hindsight, but this clearly demonstrates that some men were desperate not to leave their families to fight a war.

By the middle of 1916, the authorities were advertising for female workers for the National Shell Filling Factory (ref.152). Targeting women in Knaresborough, Harrogate, Wetherby and Tadcaster, the work was paid at 6d per hour and so urgent was the need for shells at the front that the factory worked around the clock in three 8 hour shifts. Special trains were organised to bring in workers and the fare was subsidised; the Harrogate papers published photographs of the girls heading for work, smiling from their (Third Class) compartments on the train (ref. 191). Aiming for as many women as possible, the work was considered suitable for 'domestic servants and needlewomen'. The factory was located in Barnbow, Leeds and is said to have employed 28,000 staff at its peak, the larger proportion being women. Discipline was strictly enforced in the works, for obvious reasons. One girl was sentenced to 14 days in prison with hard labour for smoking and an unnamed Knaresborough man was arrested for having seven cigarettes in his possession whilst working there (ref.164).

Closer to home, Greenwood & Batley operated a munitions works at Farnham, a mile or so from Scriven. Here shells and bullets were filled and we have identified one girl from Old Scriven (Mabel Bradley) who worked at this factory.

Whilst contemporary sources recorded the numerous deaths and physical injuries of local soldiers, nothing was said of the psychological damage suffered by these men and their comrades. Only rarely was the subject even discussed. In October 1916, a soldier of the Suffolk Regiment who was recuperating at a local hospital was seen to mount the parapet of the High Bridge in Knaresborough and jump into the river Nidd. He was rescued by onlookers, including a local man home on leave and it was ascertained from a note in his cap that he had been suffering from depression having been wounded some 18 months previously. In accordance with the thinking at the time, he was charged with attempting to commit suicide. The man, having promised not to do it again, asked to be discharged and handed over to a military escort, a request which was granted by the Knaresborough Police Court (ref.155.). This is but one local example of men being unable to cope with the war.

In the final months of the war, thought was given to the plight of disabled soldiers and their families and to the futures of those who would be returning from the fighting. In April 1918, a meeting of the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers met in the Station hotel at Knaresborough to establish a Knaresborough Branch with the aim of assisting the men of the

town when they were demobilised (ref.193). Later on, in July, a public appeal was launched in the Knaresborough area with the stated intent of raising £1000 for the returning men of the local Territorials, the 1-5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshires, but for whom 'we should now have been in parlous state' (ref. 194).

As late as October 1918 and after the war had ended, people were being urged by the Government to invest in War Savings Certificates. These were being sold at 15s 6d each and would be redeemed after 5 years for £1. The adverts exhorted people to save money by eg taking lunch to work rather than buying it there or only smoking moist tobacco which burns slower than dry. The savings thus gained could then be passed on to the national war effort (ref. 197).

Many of the records of those who fought in the First World War were destroyed or damaged in the London blitz. This goes some way to explaining why information unearthed regarding some soldiers, but not others, may be sparse or even non-existent. In the absence of a man's military records, the only information regarding his military career is likely to come from his family, local publications including newspapers or Electoral Registers and Absent Voters Lists.

### Scriven

In total, we have identified more than eighty men from Scriven who served in the armed forces during the course of the first world war. The attached table identifies these men by name and, where known, rank, number, regiment and home address. Scriven boasts two war memorials; the village of Old Scriven has a plaque in the shelter by the village green and New Scriven, that block of housing bounded by Boroughbridge Road, Scriven Road and Greengate Lane, has a further plaque within the Park Grove Methodist Church. Additionally, some of the men are also commemorated on the Knaresborough war memorial in the castle grounds which was designed by Arthur Abbott Gibson, an architect who specialised in ecclesiastical work and who lived at The Chequers on Boroughbridge Road. Arthur Gibson died in 1941, aged 76 (ref.50). King James' School, formerly Knaresborough Grammar School, has another memorial, recording the names of former pupils who died in both world wars.

Proposals for a monument to the dead of Knaresborough were first discussed in 1919 when it was decided to confine the memorial to the old ecclesiastical parish of Knaresborough which included the settlements of Scriven, Farnham, Scotton, Ferrensby and Plompton (ref.208). The Knaresborough memorial was unveiled on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 1921 by Brigadier-General H.L. Alexander and dedicated by the Bishop of Knaresborough in the presence of a huge crowd, estimated to number 4-5,000 people. At the ceremony, General Alexander noted that, out of a population of 5,600, Knaresborough had sent nearly 1000 men to the war, of whom 154 had lost their lives. When there was a suggestion just after the second world war to relocate the memorial to Conyngham Hall, there were objections from all quarters and the proposal was quietly dropped (ref.95).

Of the ninety or so soldiers, sailors and airmen connected with Scriven identified to date, eighteen were killed on service whilst others were gassed, wounded or suffered from the effects of war in other ways.

Prior to the war, many of the male population of Scriven worked on food production such as farms or market gardens. Although their numbers diminished as men volunteered or were conscripted,

many of these men would have been exempted from military service because of their occupation, the value of which was clearly recognised by national government. There were also a small but significant number of men who left Britain to set up a new life elsewhere, Canada being a favourite destination. Often, these exiles would enlist in say the Canadian Expeditionary Force and carry out their military service in this way which means their records are not included as part of the UK National Archives.

Many of the men who undertook military service are identified from the Absent Voters' Lists of 1918 and 1919 which name men away from home on military service and usually provide supplementary details including home address, rank, regiment, and regimental number. Not all those serving in the forces appear on the AVLs however and when voters' lists were revised in April 1919, the names of those already demobilised were removed and the names added of those who had now reached the qualifying age for military service (ref.209).

In addition to the men who were nominally resident within Scriven during 1914-18, others have been included because of another connection with Scriven (perhaps their parents lived here for example) and yet others moved into the area after the end of the war. Where known, such men are also identified below but the table of military service relates exclusively to the men who died and to those men with a residential connection to the village during the war (ref.209).

The shelter at Old Scriven was built by Arthur Atkinson, the estate stone mason to mark the 1953 coronation. Inside, the memorial plaque records the names of five men who were killed during the course of the two world wars and states:

In Memoriam

1914-1918

Midshipman John Slingsby, R.N.

Private Percy Fryer

Private Harry Smith

1939-1945

Guardsman Arthur Bradley

Private Thomas Cooper

The names of Percy Fryer, Arthur Bradley and Thomas Cooper are also remembered on the Knaresborough war memorial.

#### John Slingsby (1898-1915)

John Slingsby, who was only 16 when he died, was the youngest brother of Charles Slingsby of Scriven Hall. He served as a Midshipman on the battleship HMS Formidable which was sunk in the English Channel by the German submarine U24 on New Year's Day 1915 with the loss of many men.

He is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial (Memorial ref. 8)(ref.1), but not on the Knaresborough memorial.

The news of the loss of the 'Formidable' was announced locally on 6 January 1915 when the press had not given up all hope of John Slingsby still being found amongst the survivors, with 40 more survivors having just been landed at Lyme Regis. The Harrogate Herald made the point that men are sometimes picked up by vessels en-route for distant destinations and so a great deal of time may elapse before all the survivors are identified. Nevertheless, the paper published a photograph of Midshipman Slingsby with the caption 'Lost on the Formidable' and extended its sympathies to his mother, Mrs Slingsby, who was then living at Farnham Lodge in Farnham (ref.113). This property, which had previously been the vicarage, had apparently become the dower house for the Slingsbys of Scriven (ref.158). John's father, the Rev. Charles Slingsby, had died in 1912. John Slingsby's photograph also appeared in the 1915 edition of Ackrill's annuals which was a record of newsworthy events relevant to the Harrogate area published each year by the local newspaper group. During the war years, the publication was naturally dominated by news of military events affecting local men.

Mrs Slingsby paid for a large marble memorial to her youngest son which in 1916 was placed on the nave wall of St. Oswald's church in Farnham (ref. 139). Surmounted by a Union Jack, the memorial incorporates a relief of the 'Formidable' and also remembers John's friend, Geoffrey Ernest Cadle from Durham, who was another 16 year old Midshipman who died when the vessel went down. The tablet carries the following inscription:

'In loving memory of Midshipman John Slingsby, born July 11<sup>th</sup> 1898, youngest son of the Rev, Charles and Susan A. Slingsby. He lost his life on HMS Formidable, in the war against Germany, on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1915; also his great friend Geoffrey Ernest Cadle, born March 17<sup>th</sup> 1898. They both went through the rough sea together to another land. Remember, O Lord, the souls of the faithful departed.

All that life contains of torture, toil and treason

Shame, dishonour, death to them were but a name

Here as boys they dwelt through all the singing season,

And ere the day of sorrow departed as they came.'

In September 1914 the three cruisers, Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue had all been lost in very quick succession to a torpedo attack by a German submarine, the latter two whilst endeavouring to rescue survivors from the Aboukir. Following this, the British Admiralty issued instructions to the Fleet that disabled ships in such circumstances must be left to their own resources. This order was followed by Captain Arthur Loxley on the Formidable who signalled his escort to keep clear and not endanger herself, thereby reducing the chances of rescue for himself and his crew (ref.114). Surviving sailors from the ship later described how the crew had sung 'Tipperary' as their ship went down and that the Captain had remained calm right up to the end (ref.113). Captain Loxley was not amongst the survivors.

Percy Fryer

Private Percy Fryer served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. His regimental number was 28836. He was in hospital, wounded, in May 1917(ref.2), then returned to service, being killed in action on 12 April 1918 aged 21. He was killed in Estaires on the river Lys near Neuve Chapelle, defending the village against the final German offensive of the war. (ref.64). He is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial in Belgium (panel 4) which commemorates 11,000 servicemen with no known grave. He was the son of Elizabeth Fryer (1864-1919) of Old Scriven (ref.1). The 1901 census records a Percy Fryer aged 4 living at Roundell Manor with Robert Fryer, a stonemason aged 45, and Elizabeth Fryer, aged 37. His name is also recorded on the plaque in New Scriven (see below) and on the Knaresborough war memorial. His brother, Alfred, also served in the army, see below.

Harry Smith

Private Harry Smith was a carpenter who was born in Scriven and served with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. His regimental number was 5/1101. He died on 1 July 1917 and is buried in Achiet-le-Grand Communal Cemetry Extension (grave ref. 1. N.3) near Bapaume in northern France. He was the son of Mrs Hannah Smith of Old Scriven (ref.1) and the 1901 census records Harry Smith aged 14 living at no. 32 The Village (5 Pleasant Row) with his parents James Smith, a retired groom, aged 62, and Hannah Smith, aged 57. Also living there were his siblings, Mary, aged 27, William (25) and Charles (20). Harry Smith is also remembered on the plaque in New Scriven, see below, but not on the Knaresborough war memorial.

In New Scriven, the church plaque remembers eleven men:

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

H E ARMSTRONG	NORTH'D FUSILIERS
W P CLARKE	NOTTS & DERBYS
D H DEMPSEY	HMS TIPPERARY
D R EASTWOOD	YORKS HUSSARS
P FRYER	WEST YORKS
T MOODY	WEST YORKS
G N NEWBIGAN	ROYAL ENGINEERS
H SMITH	DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY
T STOTT	WEST YORKS
R WINN	WEST YORKS
B WILKINSON	COLDSTREAM GUARDS

WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE

1914 GREAT WAR 1918

The church memorial relates to the Great War only.

### Henry Ernest Armstrong

Sergeant Armstrong was the son of Mr William Armstrong of Brooklyn, 1 Park Avenue, Scriven but was living in Newcastle upon Tyne, the city of his birth, when he enlisted. He served with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers (regimental no 16/411) and was killed in action aged 24 on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, the fateful first day of the Battle of the Somme. This was the 'black day' for the British army which suffered some 57,000 casualties on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 18,000 of whom were killed in action. Because of the sheer numbers involved, it took considerable time to establish precisely what had happened to missing soldiers. Initially, Sergeant Armstrong had been posted as 'missing' (ref. 149) and it was not until September that his father received confirmation from the War Office that he had been killed on 1<sup>st</sup> July (ref.153). He is commemorated on the Knaresborough war memorial and on the Thiepval Memorial for the missing, pier and face 10B, 11B and 12B (ref.1). He had two brothers who also undertook military service, see below. A photograph of Sergeant Armstrong was published in the 1916 edition of Ackrill's Annuals and in the Harrogate Herald of 6 September 1916 when news of his death had been confirmed.

### Percy Clarke

Note: some sources spell 'Clark'.

William Percy Clarke was one of three brothers (see below) living at Fairfield, 77 Boroughbridge Road, to have served in the army during the Great War. Lance Corporal Clarke is also commemorated on the Knaresborough cenotaph. He was 29 when he died, unmarried, and had been working as a draper's assistant when he enlisted on 11 November 1915 at Buxton, joining the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). His regimental no. was 36724. He was 5ft 8 inches tall and weighed 142 lbs on enlistment. The doctor recorded that he was short-sighted in his medical examination, although this was not deemed sufficient to refuse his entry into the army. He went to France in February 1917, embarking at Folkestone on the 27<sup>th</sup> and disembarking at Boulogne later the same day (ref.37), and, on 20th March 1917, he transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the same regiment. In July 1918, he was granted leave, from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> August and the following month, in September 1918, he was appointed Acting Unpaid Lance Corporal (ref.4). He died of wounds received on 20 October 1918 although the local paper reported that he had been killed in action on 21<sup>st</sup> October, this news being published as the armistice was being celebrated (ref.200). The Commonwealth War Graves Commission states that 20 October was the date of his death, whilst his regimental casualty record states that he died on 30 October. It seems likely that he sustained his wounds on 20<sup>th</sup> October and died 10 days later. His personal effects were returned to his mother, Mrs Hannah Clarke. At the time of his death, William Clarke had served a total of 2 years and 14 days in the army, of which 1 year and 258 days had been spent in France with the rest in England where he would have received most of his training. His name is recorded on the Knaresborough war memorial and on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial in the Pas de Calais region of France which holds the 9000 names of those men killed during the final advance of the war and who have no known grave (ref.1). He had two brothers also on military service, whose details are given below.

The 1891 census shows that the Clarke family were living in Stamford Bridge near York before they moved to Scriven. At that time, the head of the family was William Clarke, aged 31, who worked as a butcher and was married to Hannah, aged 43. They only had two sons then, George James (4) and William Percy (3), together with a daughter, Mary Ellen, aged 1 year. William's birth in 1888 was registered in Pocklington, East Yorks (ref.37).

#### Daniel Hartpole Dempsey

J/49847 Daniel Hartpole Dempsey was an Ordinary Seaman in the Royal Navy. Born 1896 in Edinburgh, he was the son of Daniel and Catherine Dempsey of 'Daleside', Boroughbridge Road (now no.63) although the Royal Navy Graves Roll gives his address as O'Haley House, Victoria Avenue in Knaresborough. The 1901 census records the family living at 17 Polwarth Gardens in Edinburgh when Daniel junior, aged 4, was one of three children (ref.37) and his father worked as a railway traffic agent. He served on HMS Tipperary and died on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1916 at the Battle of Jutland, aged 19 and has no known grave. He is also commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, memorial ref 14 (ref.1). HMS Tipperary was a Faulknor-class destroyer, launched on 5 March 1915 and under her Captain C. J. Wintour, she led the 4<sup>th</sup> Flotilla at the Battle of Jutland, attacking the German fleet with her torpedoes. The battle was fought at such short range that the Tipperary was also able to register a number of hits with her small 4-inch guns before she was sunk on 1 June 1916 by the German dreadnought SMS Westfalen with the loss of 185 men from a crew of 197 (ref.6).

An extract from the Official History; " Naval Operations" by Sir Julian S. Corbett. 1923 states:

"Captain Wintour and the leading boats of his solitary flotilla were aware of a shadowy line of ships to starboard on a converging course. Whether they were friend or foe it was impossible to tell, and he held on for some minutes with all torpedo tubes trained to starboard. Still they made no sign, and at last, as they were evidently drawing ahead of him and had closed to less than 1,000 yards, he ventured to give the challenge.

Salvoes, accurate and rapid, at point blank followed instantaneously, and in a minute the Tipperary burst into flames, almost lost to sight in brilliantly illuminated splashes. Yet she fired both her torpedoes. The four boats of her division did the same, and so did the Broke.

Some of the rear boats, still uncertain that a mistake was not being made, held their fire till accidentally one of the enemy's beams lit up the rear ship.

Then it was plain to see what they had to deal with, and they also attacked. Several of the boats claim to have hit. Explosions were plainly seen; there were gaps in the line of staring searchlights. How many hits were made is uncertain, but one at least of the cruisers received her death blow.....All that man could do Captain Wintour had done, but he was now no more. The first salvo had swept away the Tipperary's bridge, on which he stood, and she was left a mass of burning wreckage"(ref.71).

#### David Randolph Eastwood

David Eastwood was the son of Mrs Eastwood of Park Avenue, living in Scotton at the time of his enlistment. 2384 Private Eastwood served with the Household Cavalry and the Cavalry of the Line (including Yeomanry and Imperial Camel Corps) as well as the Yorkshire Hussars. He had also seen considerable service with the Volunteers and had rejoined the colours shortly after war had been

declared, going out to France on 15 April 1915. At some point he was wounded or injured since he spent some time in the Weston Military Red Cross Hospital in Scarborough, from where a photograph of him survives. A copy has been provided by Andy Chapman, David's great-nephew (ref.183). He died in France on 22 November 1916, aged 34 (ref. 4) as a result of a 'rifle accident'. His mother received the news of his death in a letter written by Regimental Sergeant –Major Parkin: 'You may rest assured that whilst we stay here his grave will be well and carefully tended by his chums, with whom he was so very popular, and by whom his loss is felt far more keenly than I can express'. On learning of his death, the local paper published his photograph in uniform, which had been taken when Trooper Eastwood had been at home on leave in June 1916.(ref.157) and this also appeared in the 1917 edition of Ackrill's Annuals. He is buried in the Aire Communal Cemetery in the Pas de Calais, grave ref I E 11 (ref.1) and his name is recorded on the Knaresborough cenotaph.

David Eastwood was probably born in Scotton, with his birth being registered in Knaresborough in 1882 although he was baptised in St.Peter's Church, Leeds on 17 August 1882. The 1891 census shows the family living at Scotton where his father Charles, then aged 61, was living on his own means with Elizabeth, his wife (aged 45) and their 3 sons, Charles junior (11), David (8) and Claud (6) together with Kate Moseley, a 24 year old servant. Charles had previously lived at St. Anne's Villa in Scotton when the 1881 census showed that he was an accountant with one son, Charles William, born the previous year. The family were still in the village at the time of the 1901 census which identified their home as Scotton Grange with David the only child still living there. The 18 year old David was described then as a 'farm pupil'. The family had Mary Vasey, aged 45, as a servant in the house in 1901 (ref.37).

His brother, Claud Cecil Eastwood was also a Private in the Yorkshire Hussars, see below.

Percy Fryer: see Old Scriven, above

#### Thomas Moody

203574 Thomas Moody was a private in the 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment which was raised in York and he appears to have undertaken two separate periods of service with the Regiment, being given the service numbers 7841 and then 203574. This may indicate that he was wounded and recovering in the interim period. He was killed on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1917. The Harrogate Herald published his photograph that month with a note that he had been reported killed on 10<sup>th</sup> August (ref.174); the official date of death is however the following day (ref.1). Thomas Moody is buried in the New Irish Farm Cemetery, north-east of Ypres in Belgium, grave ref. II.J.9 (ref.1). Private Moody's age at death is unrecorded but he must have been young because of the tribute made by one of his friends, Private F. J. Parkyn of Knaresborough who wrote to the Harrogate Herald 'I see T Moody has gone West. I did like that boy, for that is all he was. I was in training with him at Clipstone Camp. It is very sad to know of so many Harrogate boys going under' (ref.55). Clipstone Camp near Mansfield was one of many built to train the men of Kitchener's New Army. It consisted of a huge number of wooden huts and could accommodate 30,000 men. It opened in May 1915.

Thomas Moody evidently attended Knaresborough Grammar School (now King James' School) since his name also appears on their own war memorial. He had been born in Leeds and enlisted in Harrogate whilst living in Knaresborough (ref.4) and is thought to have been living in Hyde Park Terrace. In 1901, the family lived in Bankside Street, Potternewton, in Leeds where the head of the

family was John W. Moody, a 40 year old bricklayer. The other family members at this time were his wife, Emily and two children, namely Sarah, aged 5, and Thomas 3, together with John's cousin, the 15 year old Arthur Newby. The 1911 census shows a Moody family living in Hyde Park Terrace, just on the eastern side of Boroughbridge Road. The head of household at the time was a Mrs Moody and four people were living in the house, two of each sex, presumably John having died in the interim (ref.37). Thomas's sister Sarah married George W. Milne in December 1916, a wartime wedding reported in the local press which published photographs of bride and groom. George W. Milne was then in the Royal Flying Corps and was the son of Rev. G.W. Milne, late of St. Marks, Glasgow. Sarah was described as 'the daughter of the late J.W. Moody of Leeds and Knaresborough' (ref.207).

### George Nesbitt Newbiggin

Note: spelled 'Newbegan' on the church memorial.

George Newbiggin was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Durham Fortress Company of the Royal Engineers and, before the war, worked as an estate clerk for a coal company, also serving in the Territorials. He was the son of Mr and Mrs Newbiggin of Ryton-on-Tyne and his birth in 1878 was registered in Gateshead as 'George Nesbitt Newbiggin' (ref.37). The 1881 census shows the 2 year old George living in Whitewell Lane, Ryton with his parents Edward and Margaret Newbiggin, his brother Edward, aged 4, sister Sarah Ann (5) and grandparents Edward and Ann Newbiggin. His 32 year old father made a living as a tailor's cutter. By 1891, the census shows the family had moved to Greenfield Place in Ryton where his siblings now included William, aged 8, and Arthur, aged 3. George's grandparents were still living with the family at this time and his 15 year old sister Sarah was described as a 'pupil teacher'. The family were still at Greenfield Place in 1901 although the grandparents had died by then. They were replaced in the house by another child, John B., aged 9 at the time of the census, and the 16 year old Margaret Armstrong who worked as a servant. By 1901, Edward Newbiggin was working as a merchant tailor.

He married his wife Sarah in Gateshead in January 1907; they lived at 22 Grosvenor Road in Whitley Bay (ref.1). However, his probate records (ref.37) show another home address of 'Tyneholme', Scriven which explains his connection with the village and, notwithstanding the Whitley Bay address, the Electoral Register for 1918 shows Sarah 'Newbiggin' resident in Park Grove. The property of 'Tyneholme' is now no. 21 Park Grove, just a few yards from the church which displays his memorial. Given his family links with the Tyne valley, it is possible that it was George Newbiggin who initially named the property or, equally possibly, it could have been named by his wife in his memory. He was made a Second Lieutenant in the East Riding (Fortress) Engineers on 29 December 1915. (ref.53). He died on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1916 at West Hartlepool and was buried with full military honours in Ryton Cemetery. He is also commemorated on the Knaresborough (spelled 'Newbiggin') and Ryton war memorials and in Ryton Holy Cross Church (ref. 51). On his death, his estate of £202 0s 3d was left to his widow (ref.56).

Harry Smith: see under Old Scriven, above

Tom Stott

Tom (not Thomas) Stott was the son of Tom and Emily Stott of no. 4, Victoria Avenue, his father being a greengrocer by trade. In 1901, the family were living in Rock Terrace, Harrogate where Tom Stott senior was a bricklayers labourer. Their children then were George, aged 7, Tom (5), Joseph (3), and Eva (1), all of whom had been born in Harrogate.

Tom served as 23928 Private Stott in the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion (the Bradford Pals) of the West Yorkshire Regiment(ref.1) and died at home on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1917 (according to the local paper, but on 22 May according to both the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and his army medal card) of wounds sustained on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1917, aged 21. He is buried in Knaresborough cemetery and is commemorated on the Knaresborough cenotaph. At his funeral, the coffin was covered in a Union Jack and conveyed on a gun carriage from Victoria Avenue to the cemetery where a guard of honour and a firing party from the Royal Field Artillery awaited. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. J A Hubbard and concluded with three volleys being fired over the grave. A considerable number of mourners attended the funeral, including representatives from 'C' Company of the West Riding Volunteers (ref.170). His brother George was also in the army, see below. A photograph of Tom Stott was published in the 1917 edition of Ackrill's Annuals and also in the Harrogate Herald in May 1916 (ref.142).

#### Britton Wilkinson

22740 Private Britton Wilkinson was the son of Jonas Brooke and Mary Ellen Wilkinson of 'Whitwell House' 5 Victoria Avenue, Scriven (although the Harrogate Herald has them living at Betterton House in Park Grove) and lived with his wife Louie (nee Anderson, of Knaresborough) at 'Innisfallen' on nearby Boroughbridge Road. At the time of his death he had been in the army for 18 months and had only been married a year. Britton Wilkinson was born at Cross Gates in East Leeds and enlisted in Harrogate (ref.4). He fought with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Coldstream Guards (although his medal card specifies the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Household Battalion and died of his wounds on 13 April 1918 at the age of 41. The Household Battalion was formed in September 1916 when recruits for the Household Cavalry were diverted into badly needed infantry; it was disbanded on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1918. His wife received a letter from the Sister at the hospital which said 'I am sorry to have to convey very sad news of your husband. He arrived in this hospital today, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., very seriously wounded, and gave me a letter written the day before to forward on and also requested me to write to you. He is, I'm afraid, too weak to undergo an operation but will write to you again tomorrow.' The next letter, sent on the 14<sup>th</sup> April, brought the bad news 'I am sorry to have to tell you that your husband passed away yesterday'. A photograph of him in uniform appeared in the local paper when his death was announced (ref 186).

He is buried in Ebblingham Military Cemetery, in France, grave ref. I.A.6. (ref.1), a cemetery which holds many casualties of the German offensive of March-April 1918. His name also appears on the Knaresborough war memorial. Britton Wilkinson had been a partner with his father as a coal merchant, based in Ousegate, York, having previously been an agent for Messrs. Bowers at Allerton Main Colliery. He had been secretary for the Wesleyan Sunday School, a member of the Knaresborough Water Carnival Committee, a member of the Town and Amateur Cricket Clubs and a member of the Yorkshire Colliery Agents Association (ref.186). Britton Wilkinson had eight brothers, five of whom also undertook military service, and who are discussed below.

#### Richard Winn Winn

13247 Private Richard Winn served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment(ref. 87) and was the son of Richard Winn Winn and Annie Winn of Roecliffe, near Boroughbridge. He was born in Roecliffe and the 1901 census shows that his 31 year old father was a farmer. The family then consisted of Richard senior, his wife Annie, Richard junior aged 6 and Francis Joseph, aged 4. The connection of Richard Winn junior with Scriven is unknown and his name is not on the Knaresborough memorial. He arrived in France on 13 July 1915 and died, aged 22, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1916, the first day of the battle of the Somme. He is buried in Fricourt New Military Cemetery, grave ref. D.2. Most of the graves in this cemetery are of men from the West Yorkshires who attacked the German-held village of Fricourt on 1<sup>st</sup> July with heavy casualties, the village being taken the following day. (ref 1).

These are the names recorded on the two memorials in Scriven. There are however a number of other men from the village who died in the course of the war and whose names, for whatever reason, are unrecorded on either of the Scriven memorials:

#### Frederick Aldous

Private 36818 Frederick William Aldous, born on 18 October 1897 in Sutton, Yorkshire (ref.37) served in the 15<sup>th</sup> Leeds Pals (Service) Battalion of the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), enlisting in Tadcaster at some point after July 1915, although he appears to have been resident in Shadwell at the time. He died on 16 June 1917 and is buried in the Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent-Blangy in France, grave ref. I. M.2. He was 29 when he was killed, the husband of Mary Ann Aldous nee Fryer of Old Scriven (ref.1), having married her at Knaresborough in 1913 (ref.63). Mary Fryer was the brother of Percy Fryer who was also killed in the war, see above. The name of Frederick Aldous is not recorded on the Knaresborough war memorial but does appear on the memorial plaque within Tadcaster Methodist Church. His widow is recorded as living in Scriven in 1920 (ref.39).

#### Herbert Ellerker

Private 4433 Herbert Ellerker served with the 1/4<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment, going to France on 1 September 1915. He died of his wounds on 6 October 1915, aged 22 years and is buried at Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentieres in France, grave ref. IX. D. 13. He was the son of Mr R D Ellerker of Edzell, Victoria Avenue, New Scriven, was born in Filey and enlisted in Hull. (ref.1). His name is also absent from the Knaresborough war memorial, probably because he never lived in the town although it does appear on the Filey memorial (ref.85). His brother, Walter, also died, see below.

#### Walter Gilman Ellerker

Private 54445 Walter Gilman Ellerker was the brother of Herbert Ellerker ; their parents lived at 'Edzell' on Victoria Avenue. Walter Ellerker fought with the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers and died of his wounds on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1917. Walter was born and enlisted at Filey and, like his brother, his name appears on the Filey memorial but not that at Knaresborough (ref.85). Walter is buried in Mendinghem Military Cemetery, grave ref. VI. AA. 8 (ref 1). The cemetery is by the village of Proven, about 17km north west of Ypres in Belgium and was named after a casualty clearing station established there by the British in 1916 (ref.10). Given the location, Walter Ellerker

seems to have received his fatal wounds on the Passchendaele battlefield, just after that battle had ended on 10 November.

### T. Frederick Plaskitt

The name of 140772 Gunner Frederick Plaskitt appears neither on the Scriven memorials nor the Knaresborough cenotaph but he is named on the Hunsingore war memorial (spelled 'Plasket') His parents having died, he lodged with a Mrs Walker of Old Scriven prior to enlistment and was employed as a horseman by Mr Marchant at Cattal Grange (ref 3). He served in both the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery ( 130<sup>th</sup> Battery, 40<sup>th</sup> Brigade- ref. 86) and died on 3 May 1917. His photograph was published in the 1917 edition of Ackrill's Annuals, with his surname spelled as 'Plaskett'. He is buried in the Guemappe British Cemetery at Wancourt, grave ref II B.8. (ref.1), having been born and enlisted in York. The Electoral Register of Spring 1920 for the township of Scriven records an Eleanor Walker living in the village with a Thomas Henry Walker at that date.

### Joseph Steel

Note: some records state 'Steele'.

Joseph Steel was born c1882 to parents John and Ann Steel. The 1881 census, just prior to his birth, shows his parents living in Church Lane, Knaresborough with two children; William, aged 3 and Elizabeth, aged 2. At this time, his father was working as a general labourer. The next census in 1891 shows the family living at Bond End in Knaresborough, by which time William has already left the family home and may have been living with his mother who is also absent from the census information, possibly due to pressure of family numbers. John Steel now earned his living from dealing in poultry and the family had increased in size, the children at home being Elizabeth (age 11), Joseph (9), Mary Anne (7), Sarah (5), and Rose (3), together with Sarah Anne Hartley, a 31 year old housekeeper. By 1901, the family has moved again, this time to Old Scriven where Joseph, then aged 18, is the only child still living at home with John and Ann Steel. Father and son are now both described as 'poultry dressers'.

He attested for military service on 12 November 1915 and was posted to the 3/5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment on the 27<sup>th</sup> of that month, serving as 3769 Private Steel. He was then posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment and was killed in action aged 34 on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing (Pier and Face 2C) (ref.1) and on the Knaresborough War Memorial. On enlisting in 1915, he was a mere 5ft tall, and weighed 126 lbs. He had been single, and living in Knaresborough on the High Street, probably with an aunt whom he named as his next of kin, his parents apparently having died before the war. His profession remained as 'poulterer' and the local paper volunteered the information that he had worked for Messrs. Taylor Bros., game and poultry dealers who had premises in both Harrogate and Knaresborough (ref. 156). Following his enlistment, Joseph was stationed in Britain until being sent to France on 25 June 1916, where he remained until he was killed. Two months after what was eventually confirmed as the date of his death, he was reported as 'missing' (ref.156) and even a year later, when the local paper published his photograph, the news was not absolute since it described him as '....missing, now officially presumed killed in action' (ref.198).

Following Joseph's death, the War Office contacted his aunt to clarify the position regarding next of kin. She provided details of his brother and sisters and, in July 1918, the War Office noted that the medals to which Joseph Steel would have been entitled should be retained until his brother William had returned home from active service; William at that time was still serving as a Private in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment and residing at 27 Poplar Grove in Harrogate. He would receive Joseph's medals in February 1922 and also his brother's memorial scroll. The army next of kin form dated 1919 records Joseph's next of kin as William, then 42, with his sisters identified as Mrs Small (Mary) at Enfield Terrace in Gateshead, Mrs Robinson (Sarah), living in Toledo, Ohio, and Mrs Harrison (Rose), residing in Providence Terrace, Harrogate. There is no mention of his eldest sister Elizabeth and, for some reason, Joseph's personal effects were returned to his sister, Mary.

Joseph's records show that he embarked at Southampton on 25 June 1916 and arrived at Rouen the following day, and Havre the day after that where he was assigned to the Base Depot. Attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> East Yorkshires, he then transferred to the Regiment's 4<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalion before being posted back to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Only two days later, on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, Joseph Steel was reported as missing and was subsequently found to have been killed on that date.

#### Harold Taylor

Private 37136 Harold Taylor was born in Scarborough and served in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own). He is believed to have died on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1918 and is buried in the Wytschaete Military Cemetery in Belgium; grave ref IV. E. 4. He was 29 years of age and the husband of Maria Taylor of Betterton House, Park Grove, New Scriven (ref.1). Harold Taylor was reported missing on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1918 and his wife, Maria, published an appeal for information in June (ref.189) and again in October (ref.196). She had still heard no news by the following year when she published a further appeal for information in the Harrogate Herald of 29<sup>th</sup> January 1919. The 1918 edition of Ackrill's Annuals includes a photograph of Harold Taylor with a note that he was currently missing in action. Tragically, the only details to emerge at the end of the war were negative. He was in D Company, 16<sup>th</sup> Platoon of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshires and in 1918, his address was given as 'Wood Cliffe', Boroughbridge Road, Knaresborough (ref.52).

In February 1917, Knaresborough organised a tribute to the men of the town who had been killed thus far in the course of the war. A ceremony was held in the castle grounds where a memorial service was conducted by the Vicar of Knaresborough (the Rev. Canon Hancock) in the presence of a large gathering of residents and soldiers who were billeted in the town. A list of 65 names of the fallen was read out; this included Daniel Dempsey, George Newbiggin and John Slingsby from Scriven but failed to mention Henry Armstrong, David Eastwood, and Richard Winn who had also died by that time (ref.165). Curiously, there are also four names on the 1917 list which do not feature at all on the Knaresborough war memorial.

This tribute was followed by the unveiling by the Lord Bishop of Ripon of a shrine in the Parish Church of Knaresborough in February 1918. This was made of oak, with folding doors and was dedicated to 'The Heroic Dead' in memory of 'L.G.J.', late of Bayards Lodge in Knaresborough, being presented by her sister, Miss Caroline Johnstone. The shrine contained the names of all the Knaresborough men who joined up for the war, with the names of those who had fallen listed in the centre (ref.181). It is not clear why this was done in advance of the end of hostilities and at a time, just after Passchendaele, of continuing heavy casualties.

The surviving records also provide some details of other men who were on active service during the war. These are set out below in alphabetical order and include both Scriven residents at the time of the war and those others with some connection to the village. The list also includes those in Scriven who were engaged in non-military war service.

Frank Adams was a Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adams of Boroughbridge Road in Knaresborough. He had already been wounded once and had recovered when the Harrogate Herald reported that, in August 1917, he was again in hospital having been 'dangerously wounded' (ref.175). Notwithstanding his condition, Frank Adams seems to have survived the war since the CWGC have no record of his death (ref.1). He may well have been the brother of George Adams who was a Private serving in a hospital and who gave his address as Boroughbridge Road on the Absent Voters Lists of 1918 and 1919.

On 17 November 1915, the hospital ship 'Anglia' was sailing to Dover from Calais carrying 390 wounded soldiers with nursing staff and crew when she hit a mine laid by the German submarine UC-5 and sank within 15 minutes about one mile from the English coast. One of the patients on board was Private W. Anderson of the 5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment who was suffering from influenza and rheumatism from his time in the trenches. Although he lived at Calcutt, he had been captain of the Scriven football team prior to the war. Anderson was able to swim for a little while but then lost consciousness, in which state he was hauled into a rescuing boat 30 minutes after the Anglia had sunk. He was probably rescued by HMS Hazard or the collier Lusitania which had been the first vessels to arrive at the scene. 134 people were lost (ref.6). Anderson survived but lost all his money and possessions (Ref.131). Unfortunately, he did not survive the war, dying just before the war ended, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1918 and he is buried in Knaresborough cemetery (ref.1). His name appears on the Knaresborough war memorial. The home ground of the Scriven football team was Gamble's field (the farmer being a Mr Gamble at one time) between Ripley Road and Tentergate Lane, the site now occupied by St Mary's Primary School.

In 1901 the Appleton family lived in Old Scriven where William Appleton, aged 43 earned a living as a market gardener. He was married to Mary Alice and the couple had two sons, Fred (14) and Lancelot (7). Lancelot was born in Ripon in 1892 and, with what seems to have been the entire family, emigrated to Canada where he enlisted into the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 6 May 1915. The family were living at Castlegar, British Columbia where Lancelot worked as a rancher. He was 5ft 8.5 ins tall, with brown eyes and blond hair, and he was a Wesleyan. There is no record of his brother Fred undertaking military service.

Edwin Ormiston Armstrong and Thomas R. Armstrong were brothers of Henry Armstrong who died in 1916 (see above). Edwin was born in Newcastle in 1886 and enlisted as a Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment on 27 November 1915. He was then aged 19 years and 10 months and was 5' 4" in height. A piano tuner by trade (ref.37), he went to France in December 1916 where he served for 2 years and at some point joined the Labour Corps (No.12037)(ref.23), apparently because he was unfit for front line duty. In September 1918 he had received a severe gunshot wound to his thigh and spent 6 months in hospital in Salisbury, the war ending in the interim. By April 1919, he was classed as 'Category B3' in terms of his health and had been transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment (No. 66325) where he was a batman within the O.C. 522<sup>nd</sup> H.S. Employment Company, based at Stanley House in Middlesbrough. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 1919, his

mother, Julia Armstrong, wrote to his Commanding Officer asking for her son to be discharged on compassionate grounds since he was urgently needed at home to look after his aged parents who were then in poor health. She pleaded her case, saying that Edwin had been 'severely wounded in the thigh on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept and had spent months in hospital and we expected he would get his discharge on leaving. He had pneumonia when at Salisbury and has a weak heart. His father is an old man, nearly 80 and often ailing. We are by ourselves and no one to help us in any way and we would like to have him at home with us. Another reason is that he has not finished his trade and might (have) to put in another two years. He has been three years in the army and most of it in France.'

Her case was supported by a letter off 25<sup>th</sup> April from Canon Hancock, Vicar of St. Johns in Knaresborough who wrote that Edwin is 'much wanted at home by his parents. They are both very worthy people. His father is a man of some 78 years of age and his mother much out of health and they require the help of their son. I believe E. O. Armstrong was for many years in France. He could indeed be a boon to his parents if he could now be sent home.' When neither letter received a rapid response from the army, William Armstrong, father of Edwin, then wrote to the CO on 13<sup>th</sup> May and there is more than a little desperation in his submission.

William Armstrong, after pointing out that neither his wife nor Canon Hancock had received a reply from the army, appealed to the CO 'man to man' to grant their request. William stated that 'I have 5 sons in the line, one killed in action (Henry), the other died through the effects. The present E. O. Armstrong was joined to the Labour Corps because he was not fit for anything else. He has been in France nearly 2 years and was wounded in September 1918 then 6 months in hospital, which at the end should (have) had his discharge but instead he was sent to Middlesbrough to attend to 2 officers. My wife and myself are getting on in life. I am 79 years of age, my wife has gone through an operation for her eyesight. Her sight is not good and we have always had him (ie Edwin) in the home with us. He is a last protection so we are very soon coming to the closing leaves of this life, and our boy to be cast on the world to make the best of his way and which he is losing the chance to finish his apprenticeship..... If you are the father of a family you can enter with more sympathy into our cause, now I shall esteem it a great favour why he is not discharged, he is only wasting the best of his time. Yours respectfully, Wm Armstrong'

In his letter, William Armstrong states that he has had five sons and lost two in the war. Only three sons have been identified with a connection to Scriven so it would seem that the others lived elsewhere (as did Henry), probably before William and Julia came to Park Avenue. The son who 'died of the effects' of war has not been identified. William's letter had the desired effect. It seems that Edwin was advised to formally apply for his own discharge on compassionate grounds which he did on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1919, a mere 5 days after the date of his father's letter. His application was promptly approved on 22<sup>nd</sup> May when his disabilities were assessed as being the gunshot wound, pneumonia and varicose veins which, together, were considered to be a 20% degree of disability for which he was awarded a disability pension of 8s per week, commencing on 29 September 1919. He appears to have been formally discharged from military service on 28 September 1919 (although he may have been allowed home before this) and presumably returned to Park Avenue to care for his parents. .

Edwin married Florence Irene Chatterton of Knaresborough in 1922. The 1922 edition of Ackrill's Annuals includes a photograph of Edwin with his bride. By this date, Edwin was evidently living in Peterborough. When Edwin died on 9 May 1931 at the age of 35, he was residing with Florence at 47

St. Hilda's Road in Harrogate, leaving an estate valued at £658 14s 11d. He died at Harrogate General Hospital (ref.37) and although the cause of death is unknown, it is evident that Edwin did not enjoy robust health.

His brother, Thomas Rodham Armstrong, was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 15<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment (ref.23). He was wounded in the head on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1918 during Germany's final great offensive and brought back to England where he spent time recovering in a London hospital (ref.185). He survived the war and married Dorothea Brown of Harrogate in 1920, as reported by the Harrogate Herald of 18 December 1920.

The Armstrong family seem to have come from Newcastle-upon-Tyne where Henry had been born and would enlist. The 1901 census shows them living at 31 Balmoral Lane in South Gosforth, Newcastle where William, then aged 60, was a horse dealer. Julia, his wife, was then 49 and their sons were listed as Henry (8), Thomas (7), Eddie (Edwin) (5). Living with them was Jane, a 17 year old granddaughter. From this we can surmise that this was William's second marriage and that the other sons he mentions in his letter to the military authorities were from his first marriage. Given the family connection with Newcastle, it is quite possible that the William Armstrong who died there in 1921 at the age of 81, was the father in question, only surviving for two years after Edwin's demobilisation.

Arthur David Barnes lived on Victoria Avenue in 1918. He served as a Private in both the Yorkshire Regiment (the Green Howards, no. 26144), with whom his photograph appeared in the local press in early 1918 (although they gave his rank as 'Lance-Corporal')(ref.182). Later that same year, he evidently transferred to the West Yorkshire Regiment with whom he served as Private 34900 Barnes (ref.23). He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 27 September 1919 (ref.37).

George Barnfather was a Private in the West Yorkshire Regiment. The Absent Voters' List of 1918 shows that he lived then on Boroughbridge Road but was serving with the Regiment in Floreane Barracks in Malta. He died in Knaresborough, aged 64, in 1946 (ref.37).

Joshua Ettore Beck was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Northumberland Fusiliers, registering his address as Boroughbridge Road (ref.23). Kelly's Directory of 1917 shows that a Carl S. Beck lived at Glenmore on the Boroughbridge Road at this time.

Corporal George Blackburn, no. 054419, was in France with the Army Service Corps, serving with the 50<sup>th</sup> Northumbrian Division ammunition column in 337 Company (MT). He lived in Old Scriven and went to France on 19 April 1915. In September 1915, the Harrogate Herald published a photograph of him in uniform (ref.128). On demobilisation on 11 May 1919, he was entitled to the 1915 Star, the War and the Victory Medals. Whilst in France his wife sent him the local paper every week and he used their pages to ask for a football (ref.132). He was one of the founders of football club from amongst the various military companies where he was based and the old football had been worn out. He reported that he had yet to find anyone he knew out in France and that he did not often get the opportunity to get away in order to play football. He considered life on the ammunition column to be 'rather a slow occupation' but he had a high regard for his fellow soldiers, including NCOs and officers. The newspaper responded by posting a football out to France (ref.31). Corporal Blackburn was also the recipient later the same month of a food parcel sent by Miss J M Alexander of

Harrogate who was organising such Christmas gifts to British soldiers and sailors. He promptly wrote a letter of thanks which was published in full by the paper (ref.32):

'To Miss Alexander, I beg to thank you and the committee very kindly for the parcel and contents which I received on the 16<sup>th</sup> December. It was rather a pleasant surprise for me, and really more than I expected to receive from the many unknown friends. I may say it will be divided out between myself and five others who share a room with me. At present we are in billets in a very pleasant little village, and are making ourselves as comfortable as possible, and under the circumstances we are doing very well. Last Sunday the company held a concert, the artistes being composed of our own men, and the proceeds go to the prisoners of war of this village. I must say the collection was excellent, the amount being 137 Francs, or in English money £5 15s. The Mayor and population were delighted with both the performance and collection. We hope to be able to give another about Christmas time, the proceeds for the wounded of the village; and now before I close I must again thank you very much for your kindness. Wishing you all a merry Xmas and a bright and prosperous New Year, and jolly good luck to the old borough. I remain, yours gratefully, Corporal G R Blackburn.'

He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 11 May 1919 (ref.37).

Archibald Francis Booth of 'Ravenscourt', Victoria Avenue enlisted as a clerk in the Army Service Corps with whom he was based in Gibraltar in 1918. The Absent Voters' List of 1918 identifies his rank as Private although he is an Acting Corporal on the Regimental Medal Roll (ref.37). Born c1877, he was 40 years old when he enlisted in February 1917 and his address at that time was Kennington Lodge in Minskip. His records show that he was 5ft 7 ins tall with a chest measurement of 46ins. Prior to the war, he had worked as a publisher and had also served two years with the East Kent Yeomanry. He had married Marion Elizabeth Booth in 1906 with whom he had four children at the time of enlistment, namely Eric (born in Ashford, Kent in 1907), Vera (born Twickenham in 1908), Roy (born Slough in 1910 and Brian? (born 1913 in Wimbledon) (ref.37). His service continued until the end of March 1919 and included 10 days during June 1918 in a Gibraltar hospital whilst suffering from influenza. He evidently moved back to the south of England because in July 1939 he was swearing an oath before magistrates in Gravesend that he had never been issued with a formal discharge certificate by the army. This lack of paperwork may be associated with the fact that he was granted a compassionate discharge from his duties in Gibraltar, although the documents provide no reason for this.

George Bradley of Boroughbridge Road served as a Private with the Northumberland Fusiliers (No. 55345) but by 1918 had transferred to the Sherwood Foresters, the common name for the Notts and Derby Regiment where his regimental no. was 102761.

Bryan Norris, who was born in no. 1 Pleasant Row in Scriven, remembers the Bradley family who lived there in the 1920s. His uncle Sam Bradley, born in 1900, apparently had the distinction of serving in each of the three flying services during the Great War, starting off in the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), before transferring into the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) which, together with the RNAS, became the Royal Air Force (RAF) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1918. Bryan recalls that Sam had retained his uniform from each service, every one a different colour. This would require Sam to have enlisted at an early age although, as part of the Royal Navy, recruits would have been accepted in the RNAS at the age of 16, as evidenced by John Slingsby (above) who was that age when he was killed during the war. Another Norris uncle, Ken Bradley, born in early 1898, enlisted with the Royal Horse Artillery and

served at Gallipoli. Both uncles survived the war, Kenneth Bradley dying in 1991 at the age of 93 (ref.37). Bryan's aunt, Mabel Bradley worked in the Greenwood & Batley munitions works at nearby Farnham where the exposure to cordite turned her skin yellow (ref. 12). The 1901 census shows this Bradley family as living in Bondend, Knaresborough. At that time, Henry Bradley was head of the family, aged 28, and a greengrocer by trade. His wife, Ann Bradley was then aged 30 and their children were Mabel (4), Kenneth (3) and Sam,(1).

The 1901 census also shows a Bradley family living at Scriven Bar House. At this time, they were a family of ten, with Joseph F. Bradley as head of the family, married to Charlotte and earning his living as a market gardener. Four of the children were sons; John H. (age 15), Joseph H (13), Leonard (4) and Norman (3). The Absent Voter Lists of 1918 and 1919 shows that, at the end of the war, Joseph H. Bradley was a Private serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment and giving his home address as Pleasant Row in Scriven. His son, Arthur Bradley, was killed in Italy during the second world war, see below. Leonard Bradley too was registered on both AVLs, showing that he was a Driver in the Army Service Corps and that his home address remained as Bar House. He was born in 1897 and survived the war but died in 1925, aged only 28 (ref.37).

Norman Bradley was born in early 1898 and, although he does not appear on the AVL for either 1918 or 1919, we do know that he served as a Private (no. 40571) with the Leicestershire Regiment and was wounded on active service during 1916 (ref.75). This is confirmed by the local press which, in October 1916, recorded that Norman Bradley had been wounded in the head and was currently in hospital (ref.155). It also volunteered the news that he had been one of the soldiers used by the British to suppress the Easter Rising in Ireland earlier that year. A photograph of the young Norman Bradley appeared in the 1916 edition of Ackrill's Annuals which described his wounds as serious and the surviving records confirm that he enlisted on 23 July 1915 when he would have only been 17 years of age. He was discharged from the army because of his wounds on 17 January 1917 (ref.37). He may have also been the Norman Bradley who married Annie Schofield in Knaresborough in 1924.

There is no record of John Bradley, the eldest son, undertaking military service although census returns indicate that he had left the village by 1911 and so any service in the armed forces may be recorded elsewhere.

Long after the end of the war, Enid Hornsby remembers Joseph Bradley when he lived at Pear Tree Cottage during the 1940s and earned his living as a butcher, slaughtering animals at the various farms in the area. At that time, he was totally deaf, apparently as a result of being in close proximity to the artillery during the first world war.

In 1891, the Brazier family were living in Windsor Lane in Knaresborough where James Brazier was a 48 year old builder. His wife was Margaret Brazier and the couple had 8 children at that time, namely Edith (age 11), Florrie (12), Thomas (14), James (10), Nellie (7), Alfred (4), Arthur (3) and Mary (3 months). Whilst James had been born in Newnham, Worcestershire and Margaret in Yarm, all the children had been born in Knaresborough. By 1901, the family had moved to 'Fern Dene' on Boroughbridge Road. The census that year identifies Mrs. Brazier as 'Mary' rather than Margaret and there are now only four children at home, these being Ellen (Nellie), Alfred, Arthur and Mary.

By the start of the war, Arthur was living in Canada where he enlisted into the 103<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 13 July 1916. He was then living at Cadboro Bay, Victoria B.C.,

earning his living as a painter. His next of kin was given as his eldest brother Tom and his date of birth was given as 1<sup>st</sup> February 1889, which (for some reason) was a year later than his actual birth. When he enlisted in the CEF, Arthur Brazier had already served for 8 months with the 50<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders of Canada. His army records show that he was 5 ft 6 ins tall, had blue eyes and brown hair and was a Methodist (ref.56).

His brother Alfred also emigrated to Canada, appearing in the 1911 Census of Canada but does not appear to have enlisted during the war.

Mary Brazier was the youngest daughter of the Brazier family. In 1916 she married Robert Ewan from Bradford who had worked as a clerk at Morrison's linen merchants in Knaresborough but who was then a Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment. Private Ewan had recently experienced the German gas attack at Ypres on 19th December 1915 (ref.137). The local press published a photograph of bride and groom, the latter in his army uniform (ref.138). The attack at Ypres had been the first attack by Germany using a combination of chlorine and phosgene gases and was directed at British troops on the front at Wiltje when 88 tons of gas were released from cylinders; British casualties amounted to 69 deaths with a further 1069 men suffering from the effects of the poison gas (ref.6). The press report makes no mention of Private Ewan having suffered in the attack and he may have been one of the fortunate ones, possibly due to the partial protection afforded by his gas helmet which was impregnated with sodium phenolate.

Sydney Thomas Burgoyne served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (ref.23). He lived at Park View on Scriven Road, being included in Kelly's Directory for 1917 but not for 1922. The 1927 edition of the Directory shows him living at 31 South Drive in Harrogate.

Digby Chamberlain was initially a Second Lieutenant in the 26<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Royal Garrison Artillery, living at Knockfin on Boroughbridge Road, but was subsequently promoted to the rank of Major in the 28<sup>th</sup> H.A. Group of the RGA (ref.37). He had gone to France in August 1915 and had previously lived at 42 Springfield Place in Leeds. At some point during the war, he had been mentioned in despatches (ref.187). His younger brother George was, in 1918, an army cadet in Pirbright, Surrey (ref.23). Kelly's Directory records Digby Chamberlain as living at Knockfin in 1917 and 1922 but not in 1927.

Kelly's Directories of 1922, 1927 and 1936 lists a Captain Claude Cyril Chandler as living at The Cottage on Boroughbridge Road. Chandler had been commissioned Lieutenant in the 2/8<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Rifles) on 18 February 1915 and promoted to Captain on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1916, progressing to Staff Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (Capt.) on 10 September 1917. He was awarded the Military Cross in the Birthday Honours of 1918 (no citation; London Gazette 3 June 1918) for his part in the Battle of Cambrai when, as part of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Division (West Riding), his regiment had distinguished themselves in taking their objectives which included prisoners, field guns, machine guns and mortars (ref.34).

Sergeant John Alfred Clarke lived at Fairfield on Boroughbridge Road with his brothers George James Clarke and Percy Clarke, the latter dying just before the armistice, see above. Sergeant John Clarke enlisted early, on 1 September 1914 and served at Suvla Bay (Gallipoli), Egypt and at

Beaumont Hamel on the Somme. Probably as a result of the latter, he was in hospital from July 1916 to the end of August. He had begun military life as a private but was promoted to lance-corporal on 4 January 1916 and to sergeant on 1 October 1916. In February 1917, The Harrogate Herald announced he was to receive a commission (ref.11); he became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (the West Yorkshires) (ref. 23) and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Captain in 1919 (ref. 203).

His brother James was stationed in Ireland (ref. 11), T/392140 Driver G J Clarke of the 21<sup>st</sup> Corps Tr. Train (ref.23).

Mr and Mrs G Clayton lived at Daleside on Boroughbridge Road (now no.63) and had three sons, all of whom served in the army. In January 1916, photographs of the family were published in the local newspaper with brief details; Private A. Clayton was with the Royal Fusiliers, Private H Clayton was with the 6<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment but was in hospital at the time for reasons which the paper did not explain and Private E. Clayton had enlisted in the 1-5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment, with whom he was at the front (ref.136). Curiously, 'Daleside' was also the address for Daniel Dempsey who was killed at the Battle of Jutland in June 1916, see above.

A photograph of C. W. Collins was published in the Harrogate Herald of 18 April 1917. He came from Scriven and was serving in a transport unit with the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Percy Cordner from Victoria Avenue was a Sergeant in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment, having been promoted from the rank of Private (No. 16989). He went to France on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1915 (ref.37).

Bert Corker played in goal for both the Scriven and the Knaresborough football teams and presumably lived locally. In June 1916, he was a Private in the West Riding Regiment in the trenches, anticipating what was to become the Anglo-French attack in the Battle of the Somme. He wrote to the Harrogate press 'Things will be looking up a bit I guess from now onwards. The Hun will be getting such a pasting soon that he will be only too glad to beg for peace.....I think the old borough has taken a good share of it. There is one thing I would like to ask you and that is: could you get me a shaving outfit as I am very badly off for one. If you could oblige me I should be very thankful for it. It is a better game is this than playing goal for Scriven and Knaresboro' although I hope the time will come soon again when we shall be able to have a few more games' (ref.143). It was common at the time for soldiers to appeal for small items, particularly shaving kit. Bert Corker survived the carnage of the Somme and the war itself although he was hospitalised in October 1916 with a shrapnel wound to the hip. Recuperating in Bagthorpe Military Hospital in Nottingham, he wrote again to the Harrogate papers, describing his recent experiences in the Battle of the Somme (ref.154):

' We attacked....at 6.20am and it was some advance...What with our artillery and the 'Tanks' preparing a way for us we had a fairly easy task to take his first line, there was a bit of a hot time in clearing him out though with the bayonet....I found myself up against one of them. To have stopped would have let him get me, so I went for him. I don't mind telling you I was mad, but he only coughed once, I was there before him. ....Then I felt as though a house had hit me. What I had really felt was a shell burst on our left and I had got part of it in my hip and had to retire. But oh...those 'Tanks!' what a mess they put Fritz in. They looked in the light of dawn a cross between a hippopotamus with his back up and a drunken elephant. What a sight! We lost eight of them in a

shellhole and next minute saw them wallowing gaily along as though they liked it. They did fearful damage, the one with us planted itself astride a trench and enfiladed Fritz. It was a nightmare to him. They threw bombs at it and then threw up their hands. Well, I think it was the biggest beating the Germans have had from us, and certainly the biggest surprise attack. I am glad to be out of it a bit, it is like heaven after the Somme'.

What Bert Corker had evidently witnessed was the first use of tanks in warfare when the British had employed them to help take the villages of Flers and Courcelette on the Somme battlefield in September 1916. Whilst he was convalescing, his photograph was published by the Harrogate Herald in their edition of 11 October 1916.

William Herbert Coverdale was a Lieutenant in the Army Pay Department, based in South Africa. He lived at Stratherne on Boroughbridge Road in 1918 and 1919 but, in 1920, time his home address was given as 63 Albion Street in Leeds (ref.37). He was recorded as having gone to South Africa on 1 February 1917 and was entitled to the British War Medal.

In 1915, Arthur Draper of Appleby Carr was a Gunner in the Royal Artillery, having previously worked as a market gardener. Whilst he was serving in the army, his sister, a Miss H. M. Draper undertook his market gardening work and the local paper published a photograph of the two siblings (ref.127). By 1918 however, the Absent Voters List shows Arthur Draper as having transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps and was stationed at North Evington War Hospital in Leicestershire. By this time his brother, John James Draper was serving with the Royal Field Artillery. His medal card makes no mention of his time with the Artillery but shows that he was later promoted to Corporal and that he landed in France on 21 May 1915(ref.37). He was born in 1894 when his birth was registered at Knaresborough (ref.37).

Wilberforce Duffill was registered as living in Victoria Avenue in 1918 and 1919 (ref.23), describing himself as a 'Bradford Volunteer'. His medal card however states that he was a Regimental Sergeant Major in the East Yorkshire Regiment who had served in Egypt from 29<sup>th</sup> December 1915 (ref.37). These are the only details we have of his service during the first world war, although records of his earlier army career have survived. He had been born in 1869 in Hornsey, near Hull and had enlisted at Newcastle with the Northumberland Fusiliers on 14 April 1888, giving his profession as 'labourer'. Prior to that, he had also served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment, although, given his age, such service must have been brief; on that occasion, he seems to have purchased his own discharge. In 1888, Wilberforce was 5 ft 6ins tall and weighed 141 lbs, with grey eyes and brown hair. His medical examination at that time took place in Beverley, East Yorkshire. His daughter was born whilst he was in India with the Fusiliers (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, no. 2138); she was born at Rawalpindi on 1 May 1909 and christened Elizabeth Margaret. His wife was Caroline.

His army records identify the places where Duffill was stationed, including southern England, Cephalonia (1896), Gibraltar (1896), Egypt (1898), Sudan (1898), Crete (1898), South Africa (1901), Mauritius (1903) and India (1906). This included war-time service in Sudan, Crete and South Africa. His medical records show only a single instance of him in hospital during his career, in Peshawar in 1908 when he suffered abrasions to a foot. This was treated with 'local dressings but necessitated 4 days in hospital.

His progress up (and down) the ranks can be traced in his records. He was promoted to Lance-Corporal in February 1891, to Corporal in December 1892, Lance-Sergeant in March 1894, Sergeant in July 1895 and Colour-Sergeant in October 1899. Then, in April 1900, he was reduced to the rank of Corporal for drunkenness. He was then promoted to Lance-Sergeant for a second time in November 1900 and formally re-engaged for the Fusiliers in the Transvaal in May 1901 after which he was promptly promoted to Sergeant (May 1901) and then Colour-Sergeant (August 1902), the latter being the rank he held when discharged. It therefore seems that the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major identified in the Absent Voters' List of 1919 was something he achieved in his second term of service during the first world war.

He took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1898\*, the Occupation of Crete\*\* in the same year and in the Second Boer War (1899 to 1902)\*\*\* which is where he was reduced in the ranks. Apart from his medals from the first world war, Duffill was entitled to wear the Sudan Medal with Khartoum Clasp, the King's South Africa Medal with clasps for 1901 and 1902 and the Queen's South Africa Medal with Clasps for Belmont, Modder River, Orange Free State, and Transvaal. Duffill was in South Africa between 16 September 1899 to 6 November 1903.

Duffill was discharged on 3 December 1909, having spent 21 years and 234 days in the army but re-attested on 11 January 1915, serving another term through the first world war until being discharged a third time on 22 October 1919. With effect from 23 October 1919, he was given the Chelsea Number 88492 and awarded a daily pension of 50d (Ref.37). The Chelsea Pensioners British Army Records relate to those men pensioned out of the British Army between 1760 and 1913. The connection with Chelsea is that the pensions were administered through the Royal Hospital at Chelsea; the great majority of pensioned soldiers were 'out-pensioners' who did not reside at the Hospital (ref.190).

Wilberforce Duffill died of heart failure on 1 December 1943 in St. Lukes Hospital Bradford at the age of 73. His final address was 10 St. Andrew's Villas in Bradford and his profession then was retired Canteen Works Manager. He had evidently fathered more children in the interim since his Death Certificate also refers to a son, J.A. Duffil, who was also living in Bradford.

\*The Sudan Expedition of 1898 was led by General Kitchener with the aim of avenging the death of General Gordon in Khartoum two years previously. At the Battle of Omdurman on 2 September 1898, the British, Egyptian and loyal Sudanese troops defeated the rebel army which enabled them to take control of Sudan and rebuild its capital; the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers formed part of Kitchener's 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade. Wilberforce Duffill was one of the British soldiers fighting in this campaign and a Sergeant at the Battle of Omdurman; his records show that he was in the Expeditionary Force in Egypt from 17 January 1898 to 2 October 1898, a month after the battle, when he went straight to Crete.

\*\*In Crete, an insurrection in 1897 led to the Ottoman Empire declaring war on Greece. However the 'Great Powers' ie Britain, France, Italy and Russia intervened and restored order by governing the island through a committee of four admirals who remained in charge until the arrival of Prince George of Greece. Turkish forces were expelled and an independent Cretan State was established, headed by Prince George. In 1908, Crete declared union with Greece (ref.6). Duffill was in Crete from 3 October 1898 to 22 May 1899.

\*\*\*The Second Boer War of 1899-1902 was a continuation of the earlier conflict of 1880-81; both related to the colonial conquest of the mineral-rich and politically significant region of South Africa. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers were in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade during the campaign. Duffill's medal clasps from the conflict show that he was part of British forces in Orange Free State between 28 February 1900 and 31 May 1902 and also in Transvaal State between 24 May 1900 and 31 May 1902. The other clasps show that he fought at the Battle of Belmont on 23 September 1899 and also the Battle of Modder River on 28 November 1899.

Claud Cecil Eastwood of Park Avenue was the brother of David Eastwood who had been killed in 1916, see above. Like his brother, Trooper C. C. Eastwood served in the Yorkshire Hussars (regimental no. 330373) and in 1914 was part of a detachment of troops sent to guard key targets in Scarborough. He was there when the German fleet shelled the town in December 1914, which was hit by 500 shells causing the deaths of 17 residents. The fact that he was in service at such an early stage of the war suggests that he was either a Regular or a Territorial soldier. We have a photograph of the ruined Coastguard building with a detachment of the Hussars in front, including Claud Eastwood, with a second picture of the Scarborough Coastguard itself in which Claud is the only member in army uniform, the other members wearing police or naval uniforms (ref.183). The Harrogate Herald also published a photograph of a group of the Hussars, including Trooper Eastwood, beside one of the wrecked buildings (ref 122). In 1918 and 1919, he was at the 98<sup>th</sup> Base Depot (ref. 23).

Claud Eastwood also seems to have been born whilst the family were living in Scotton, with his birth being registered at Knaresborough in 1884 (ref.37) and, like his brother, he was baptised in St. Peter's Church, Leeds. He appears with the family at Scotton in the 1891 census but has left home ten years later, for in the 1901 census, he is a 16 year old pupil at Park House in Hunmanby, Bridlington. He was married before the war, in 1909, to Alice Mabel Parsons. After the war, Claud worked as a postman in Harrogate (ref.183) and died in 1934 at the age of 50, whilst living in Knaresborough.

George Marmaduke Fossick lived at Jessamine House in Park Grove, having been born in 1899; his birth was registered in York (ref.37). The 1901 census shows the family living at 47 Lindley Street in York where his father, Harry W. Fossick, worked as a railway clerk. He began his military career as a Private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Training Reserve (TR) Battalion of the army. This indicates that he enlisted after September 1916 when the formation of the Training Reserve had been introduced to cope with the numbers of men being conscripted. It seems that prior to his being allocated a regiment, George Fossick was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps into which he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (ref.99). The RFC was merged with the Royal Naval Air Service to become the RAF on 1 April 1918. He also served with the RAF during the second world war, see below, and died in Cambridge, in 1959, at the age of 60.

During the first world war, Scriven Hall was let to Sir Eric Geddes, a businessman and Conservative politician who was born in 1875. After working in the USA and India, Geddes made his name with the North Eastern Railway, rising to the position of General Manager in 1914. Lloyd-George, as Minister of Munitions, then brought Geddes into the government as Deputy Director of Supply (notice of his appointment being published in the local press in June 1915, ref. 123) before sending him to France as Inspector-General of Transportation to the British Expeditionary Force. In late July 1915 however,

Geddes apparently had the rank of Captain, this being the title accorded to him by the local newspaper when he was involved in a minor traffic accident on Pump Hill (ref.126). For his role in France, Geddes was given the honorary rank of Major-General (ref.24). His prime responsibility in France was to eliminate the bottlenecks in the supply of arms and ammunition to the western front and, using his railway experience to the full, Geddes was instrumental in constructing an efficient transport network behind the British lines (ref. 25). In 1916 Geddes was knighted in the Birthday Honours List (ref.143) and by early 1917 his remit covered all theatres of war (ref. 166).

In 1917, Lloyd-George who was by then Prime Minister, made Geddes First Lord of the Admiralty, a Cabinet position he held until 1919. He made his maiden speech in this capacity to Parliament in November 1917, which the local press considered a great success (ref.179). The Daily Telegraph's naval correspondent, Sir Archibald Hurd, later wrote of the two men, 'No men more ignorant of naval affairs were ever associated together than the Prime Minister and Geddes'. His war-time duties naturally took him away from Scriven, but occasionally he would return, prompting comment from the local press (ref.195). It was prior to the Versailles Peace Conference that Geddes made his now-famous quote, 'We shall squeeze the German lemon until the pips squeak', as a means of encouraging support for harsh restitutions against Germany. After the Admiralty, Geddes became the first Minister of Transport, a position he held between 1919 and 1921 when he resigned from the government. In 1919, the local press reported his second reading of the Ministry of Ways and Communications Bill which provided for State control of transport and the electrification of the main-line railways (ref.204) and he also lent his name to the raising of funds for the Mercantile Marine, permitting the use of his words in their appeal: 'During the war no fewer than 2,457 merchant ships have been sunk under their crews by enemy action, and an additional 670 fishing vessels, or a total of 3,147 crews, left to drift. The merchant service has lost over 15,000 men- a very big toll- and we owe a great debt to the merchant service' (ref. 210). In 1919, he also received the Knight Grand Cross (G.C.B, Civil) of the Order of the Bath from the King at an investiture at Buckingham Palace (ref.202). From 1924 until his death in 1937, Sir Eric Geddes was Chairman of Imperial Airways (ref.6).

Thomas Gill from Scriven was a Private in the West Yorkshire Regiment, having previously worked for Messrs. Stead and Son who were butchers. In 1917, Thomas was wounded in the right arm (ref.169). There were two Thomas Gills discharged from the West Yorkshires in April 1918 because of their wounds (ref.37); it is possible that he was one of these men but in the absence of corroboration, this cannot be confirmed either way.

William George Griffin was a Sapper in the Royal Engineers, attached to No 1AA Searchlight Section (ref.23). His home address was Park Avenue.

Alfred Fryer was the brother of Percy Fryer who was killed in action in April 1918. Alfred was born c1889 in Scotton but at the time of the 1901 census was aged 11 and living in Old Scriven with his father Robert, a stonemason, mother Elizabeth and younger brother Percy, aged 4. By February 1916 when he enlisted at Mexborough, he was a 27 year old joiner, had married and was living at 53 Maltby Street, Denaby Main, near Rotherham with his wife Catherine. He was 5 ft 3.5 ins tall and was mobilised at the end of May 1916 as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. He was acknowledged as a skilled carpenter and joiner which would have entitled him to an increase in the basic pay (1s 4d per day). He was sent to France in March 1917. The only blemish on his disciplinary record came in June

1919 when he overstayed his leave by 6 days, an offence for which he was punished by being confined to barracks for 14 days and forfeited 6 days pay. At that time, he had been posted to the Railway Operating Division of the RE. We do know that some of his surviving documents are duplicates, the originals having been destroyed by fire at the RE Records Office on 22 November 1917.

Owing to his joinery skills, Alfred's pay was raised to the 'superior' rate on 1 October 1917 (1s 8d/day) and then again to the 'Very Superior' rate (2s/day) on 10 March 1919. His medal card confirms that he was allocated three separate service numbers during his time in the RE. Alfred Fryer was formally demobilised on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1919 but had been at home on leave from the end of August (ref.37).

Kelly's Directory for 1917 records a Major Richard Hardcastle (1832-1923) living at 'Hilcot' on the Boroughbridge Road. By 1922, his address had changed to 'Sunnyholme', on the same road. He was born in Bradford and pursued a career as a professional soldier. The 1871 census shows him living with his wife Louisa and their young family at the District Artillery Barracks in South Shoebury, Essex where his occupation is described as a Staff Officer for Range Duty. By the time of the 1881 census, the family were living at Dawden, near Seaham Harbour in Durham where the 47 year old Richard was an 'Army Officer'. The 1891 census has the Hardcastles living in South Shields on the south bank of the river Tyne when Richard has evidently left the army and become a licensed victualler. By the time of the 1901 census, Richard and his wife are living at Hill House, a farmhouse at Haydon in Northumberland, where he describes himself as a retired army officer.

Major Hardcastle was aged 83 on the outbreak of war and had six sons. Although clearly retired at the time of the war, he was a veteran of the Indian Mutiny, having been present at the siege of Lucknow in addition to some seventeen engagements with the mutineers (ref.130). He served under Lord Clyde with the Royal Horse Artillery of India (ref. 35). On returning to Britain, he completed his 33 years of service with the army as an instruction officer at the school of gunnery. He died in 1923, aged 90, in Knaresborough (ref.37).

By 1917, he had four sons who were on active service (ref.33). The two eldest sons were both Naval commanders. Commander Corin Vivian Hardcastle (b.1865 in Greenwich) had done 30 years service with the Fleet by 1915 when he was based on HMS Vivid as a war staff officer. Previously named HMS Cuckoo until 1912, HMS Vivid was a depot ship for the Devonport Naval Base, for which purpose she was used until 1920 (ref.6). Of the four, only Corin registered Boroughbridge Road as his address on the Absent Voters Lists of 1918 and 1919. In 1881, the 15 year old Corin was a school boarder with his younger brother Horace, at Woodland House in Constable Burton in east Yorkshire. Corin seems to have married twice, once in Sunderland, in 1899 and again in Croydon in 1918, this time to Kate Wilkinson. The latter couple are recorded as passengers on board the SS Genoa in 1927, returning to London from Durban in South Africa when he gave his profession as retired Royal Navy Officer and his address as c/o Barclays Bank, 28 High Street, Hampstead, London. Corin Hardcastle died in 1953 in Surrey, at the age of 88 (ref.37).

His brother, Commander Sydney Undercliffe Hardcastle (1875-1960), had been in the Navy for 20 years when war broke out. He achieved some fame in inventing a device which accelerated the speed of a torpedo by heating the compressed air which was used as propulsion, thereby doubling the power of the missile. The result meant that British torpedoes could travel at 45 knots for the

initial 7000 yards, gradually decreasing to 20 knots or so for the final 4000 yards which was a significant improvement on the previous position. At the time this was reviewed in the press, the details were still classed as secret (ref.130). Sydney died in Bath, aged 84, in 1960.

Lieutenant Beevor De Vic Hardcastle (1882-1973) was with the 10<sup>th</sup> London Regiment when he was wounded in the neck by shrapnel on March 15<sup>th</sup> 1917 and taken into hospital. Beevor recovered from his wounds and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Captain with the 10<sup>th</sup> Londons. His army records provide a home address of 15 Broad Street, London EC2.

The fourth serving brother was Bolton Prouxe Hardcastle (1871-1967) who had emigrated to Canada before the war and was farming in the Kettle Valley, British Columbia, at the time he enlisted into the Canadian Expeditionary Force in October 1916. He gave his next of kin as his father, living at 'Hilcot' on Boroughbridge Road in Knaresborough. He enlisted on 16 October 1916 and was 5 ft 10ins tall with blue eyes and brown hair (ref.56). He was given the service number 931781 and served with the 225<sup>th</sup> O/S Battalion of the Canadian Force. He lied about his age on enlisting, giving his date of birth as 14 June 1873 rather than as 1871, making him appear to be 43 years old; in reality he was 45 which was the maximum age for enlisting into the Canadian armed forces (ref.206) and he evidently feared that declaring his correct age would result in the refusal of his services. He returned to Canada after the war and died in British Columbia.

A photograph of three of the Hardcastle sons, (namely Bevorde, Corin and Sydney) appeared in the 1915 edition of Ackrill's Annuals when all three had just received their commissions whilst these three, together with their father, also appeared in the local press in uniform (ref.130).

Of the remaining two Hardcastle sons in 1915, Horace was registrar in the General Post Office whilst Digby was a member of the London Stock Exchange who was also a special constable in London (ref.130).

Private Richard Herrington of Scriven attested at Knaresborough on 11th December 1915, two months prior to his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. His previous occupation was described as an 'assistant wireman electrical light'. His army medical record states that he was 5 ft 5ins in height and weighed 126 lbs and also that he was deaf on enlisting but that this was not considered sufficient reason for rejection. His initial training was within the UK though he was mobilised for active service in June 1916 and was sent to France to serve with the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, West Yorkshires in the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), joining his unit on 22 October 1916 (ref.37). He was wounded in action on 15 June 1917. Following his convalescence, he was posted to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the same regiment, joining them on 19 September 1917. He was wounded again on 22 June 1918, returned to service and was wounded for a third time on 24 August 1918. This latest wound caused him to be invalided back to England a few days later after receiving initial medical attention in France and prompted his photograph to appear in the local press (ref.192). He came back to England on 28<sup>th</sup> August (ref.37) where he was in Leeds War Hospital until 28<sup>th</sup> January 1919. Like most soldiers, he was transferred to the Army reserve on demobilisation, this occurring on 25 February 1919. The Army's Medical Board report reveals that one wound sustained by Richard Herrington resulted in the loss of 11 of his teeth and another had damaged the wall of his abdomen and that this had now healed. His disability was assessed at 20% for a further 3 months following demobilisation, declining then to nil ie he could expect a full recovery. In 1920, the Medical Board reviewed his disability and reassessed this at 1%, for which it awarded him a gratuity of £30. His Regimental Conduct Sheet

holds no record of any misdemeanours during his time in the regiment. News of one wounding was reported in the Harrogate Herald in June 1917 (ref. 10). The 1911 census records a Richard Herrington senior living at 33 The Village (now Home Farm House) although the 1901 census identifies Belgrave cottages as the home of the Herrington family. His father, Richard, a farm labourer, and mother, Ann Herrington, had seven children including Richard junior. One of his brothers also fought in the war; 216921 Gunner Frederick Herrington was with the Royal Garrison Artillery (ref.23).

Ronald Hirst lived on Boroughbridge Road and served as a Private with the Royal Army Service Corps, working with motorised transport. He went with his unit to France on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1914 (ref.37).

Ernest and William Hudson were two brothers living in Rose Dene, Park Grove. Ernest was a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps whilst William's details of service are unknown. In early 1917, their sister Hettie married Mr Alwyn Pickles, a science master from Leicestershire at Knaresborough Parish Church and the ceremony was described as 'quiet' owing to the brothers both being in the trenches at the time (ref.162).

Percy Knight from Old Scriven was a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery who experienced war in France. Enid Hornsby, nee Atkinson, remembers the Knight family living at Ivy Cottage, before changing homes with the Atkinson family and moving into Earl's Cottage. The 1901 census shows the Knight family living in Old Scriven where his father, George was working as Head Gardener at Scriven Hall. George came from Godalming in Surrey, whilst his wife, Annie Watson Knight, was born in the Gloucester village of Bledington. Percy was aged 9 at the time of the census and lived with his parents and his siblings, George junior (15), Montague (13), Sydney Allan (11), Daisy Winifred (7), Helen Lily (4), Dorothy May (1).

The family had evidently moved around the country since George junior had been born in Ledbury, Herefordshire, Montague in Knaresborough, Sydney in Howden, Yorkshire, Percy in Knaresborough, Daisy in Shipley, whilst Helen and Dorothy had both been born in Scriven. Back in 1891 George junior had been living with his grandfather, another gardener called George Knight, in Bond End, Knaresborough even though his brothers, Montague and Sydney were with their parents in Scriven village. By 1901 however, he was with his own parents and siblings in Scriven, working as a stationer's assistant whilst the younger Montague was a chemist's errand boy (ref.37).

Montague Knight followed his father's example and became a gardener, moving to West Hartlepool. In 1915 he was living at 13 Powell Street in the town with his wife Edie and two young daughters when he enlisted into the army at the age of 28. His wife came from Brampton in Cumberland where they had been married in 1910 and where his first daughter, Percalynne May, was born in 1911. His second daughter, Gwendolene Muriel was born in West Hartlepool in November 1914. Montague enlisted into the army on 10 December 1915 as a Private (No.165542) into the 7<sup>th</sup> Labour Battalion of the Labour Corps, transferring to the Northumberland Fusiliers on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1916. He enlisted at Newcastle and was sent to Ripon for his medical examination. On enlisting, he was 5ft, 11 ins tall and weighed 147 lbs. He then appears to have been posted to the 85<sup>th</sup> Training Reserve Battalion in September 1916 at Hornsea before being again moved to the 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, returning to the 85<sup>th</sup> TR Battalion where his Regimental number he was 5/613495 Private Knight. In 1919, he was posted again, this time to the Labour Centre in Ripon from where he was formally discharged from the army on 29 August 1919 (ref.37). He does not appear to

have undertaken any service overseas in the course of his years in the army. Montague Knight died in Redbridge, Surrey in 1975 at the age of 87.

No record has been found of either George junior or Sydney Knight undertaking military service but it is likely that they too had left the area before 1914. The 1911 census shows only two males in the Knight household at Ivy Cottage at this time, accounted for by George senior and Percy, who was still there in 1919. Enid Hornsby, who knew the Knight family long after the war had ended, recalls that they lost a son in the conflict; if so, this would seem to have been either George junior or Sydney but the surviving records do not indicate a casualty of either name being connected with Scriven, or with George (senior) and Annie Watson Knight, their parents.

Alfred Linden lived in Park Avenue and served with the Royal Garrison Artillery (ref.23). After the war he became a Master Grocer (ref.17), running his own grocery business from a shop in Park Avenue which had its windows blown out from a bomb falling nearby in 1940 (ref.26). His sons, Alfred junior and Ronald, both served in the armed forces during the second world war when Alfred junior died (see below).

Private Horace Raymond Longfellow was born in Horsforth in 1895 or 1893 (depending which account one reads), where he lived until the age of 11. In 1915, he was described as being of 6ft 2ins tall and was stationed at the King George Docks in Hull with the North-Eastern Railway Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers (ref.147). He was sent to France on 20th November 1915, serving as a Driver with the Battalion and probably fought in the Battle of the Somme which began on 1 July 1916 because, by August of that year, his worried father had received no news of him for two months and published an appeal for information in the local press which included a photograph in uniform (ref.148). At that time, his father was living in Alexandra Place. What precisely befell Driver Longfellow is unclear although there is no record of him having been killed during the war so he may possibly have been taken prisoner on the Somme battlefield.

Edward Driffield Lumb lived at Ryecroft on Boroughbridge Road before he died suddenly at the age of 37 on 19 November 1915. He was a farmer and milk dealer but had also been a member of the Knaresborough Volunteer Training Corps, whose representatives attended his funeral (ref.131). The VTC had been established to provide preliminary military training to men who would in due course enter the armed forces and, at the end of 1915, the authorities considered that such training had already benefited many men. VTC platoons in the area had been established at Harrogate, Starbeck, Knaresborough and Pannal (ref.132). Mr Lumb's funeral was also attended by neighbours who went on to serve in the army and who may therefore have been colleagues in the VTC, namely Harold Mainman and Joseph Bradley (see above).

The Harrogate Herald published a photograph in 1919 of a Private R. C. Lumley, together with a Private H. Lumley who were both formerly of Gallow Hill Farm on the outskirts of Scriven and which, because of a subsequent boundary change now falls within the neighbouring parish of Farnham. R.C. Lumley was a Private with the Canadian forces whilst H Lumley served as a Private with the West Yorkshires (ref.201).

John William Lumley, was a farmer from Gibbet House who had left the family farm and moved into Knaresborough between the 1891 and 1901 censuses. He then emigrated, to farm in Canada, appearing on the 1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta (ref.37). John's eldest

son was Robert Edward Lumley who had been born in 1899, his birth being registered in Knaresborough in the Apr/May/Jun quarter of the year (ref.37). He was living at 743 Henry Avenue in Winnipeg when he enlisted into the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 31 January 1916 (ref.56). On this date, Robert would have been only have been 16, or possibly, 17 years of age although the army form states that his apparent age is 18 which was the legal minimum for military service. His town of birth is recorded as 'Nesver, England' which must be a phonetic interpretation of 'Knaresborough' and he named his mother as next of kin. His occupation was recorded as 'clerk' and he was 5 ft 5 ins tall with blue eyes and dark hair. He enlisted as 'Robert Lumley' rather than giving his full name and is presumably the 'R.C. Lumley' referred to in the newspaper article.

John Lumley's youngest son was Lawrence Henry Lumley who also enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, being given the service number 871291. Lawrence was born on 27 April 1900 and working as a messenger and, when he enlisted on 26 February 1916 (a month after his brother Robert), he would only have been 15 years of age. He gave his date of birth as 8 April 1899 but this has been corrected in another hand, confirming that true date has been verified by reference to the birth certificate. It is evident that the authorities were suspicious and sought verification. Even so, the attestation form records his apparent age as 16 years and 11 months, this at a time when 18 was the minimum age to enlist in Canada (ref.206). At that time, Lawrence was also living at 743 Henry Avenue in Winnipeg and he named his father, who also lived there, as his next of kin. Lawrence is recorded as being 5 ft 8ins tall, with blue eyes and brown hair (ref.56) and he enlisted simply as 'Lawrence Lumley', rather than giving his full name. His immediate future after this discovery is unclear. By a coincidence, the last surviving Canadian veteran of the war also tried to enlist in February 1916, at the age of 15. He was John Babcock who also lied about his age, being born on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1900; he died in 2010 at the age of 109 (ref.205).

Henry Lumley, born in 1878, was brother to John William Lumley and was still at Gibbet Hill Farm when the 1901 census was conducted. He is the only 'H. Lumley' from this address who could have been enlisted during the war. The surviving medal records show only one Henry Lumley in the West Yorkshire Regiment; he was a Private with the service no. 34316 and prior to that had served with the Labour Corps as Private 573013. By the end of the war, he would have been 40 years old.

John Charles Lund, born in 1896 in Osmotherley, was aged 4 at the time of the 1901 census and living in Old Scriven with his father Charles, an estate drainer, his mother Ann and his brother Albert, aged 2. When he enlisted in Leeds in May 1915, the family were living at 1 Church View Terrace in Knaresborough. He joined the 2/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (The Leeds Rifles) and was wounded on 20 July 1918 whilst in France, having originally gone there in July 1917. His medical records confirm that he was admitted to a hospital in Hoylake on 26 July 1918, suffering from a gunshot wound to the right hand. He remained in hospital until 11 October 1918 when the wound had healed and he was posted to the Command Depot. His regimental conduct sheet confirms that he committed no misdemeanour during his time with The Leeds Rifles and he was demobilised on 1 April 1919 (ref.37).

Albert Lewis Lund, brother of Charles, enlisted in the Scots Guards in August 1916 at Harrogate, giving his home address as 1 Church View terrace, Knaresborough and his father as next of kin. Although the 1901 census records Albert, also born in Osmotherley, as being aged 2, he gave his age on enlistment as being 18 years and 5 months which must have been incorrect. Prior to enlisting, he

had worked as a shop assistant. He was sent in January 1917 to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion at the Guards Depot at Caterham but was admitted to Caterham Military Hospital on 3 February 1917 suffering from cerebro-spinal meningitis. He was then transferred the following day to Fulham Military hospital where he spent 57 days under treatment which included lumbar punctures. He left the Fulham Hospital on 30 April 1917, being taken immediately to Bethnal Green Military hospital where he spent a further 58 days. On his discharge from hospital, he was posted back to the Guards Depot at Caterham and, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1917, he was discharged from the army as being 'no longer physically fit for war service'. According to his medical report, he was quite well on reporting to the Caterham Depot on 5 February 1917 and took part in full parades for three weeks before becoming ill. The Medical officer did not consider that his illness had been caused by active service but noted that an epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis had been prevalent in the depot at that time. Albert's general condition upon being discharged was considered 'fair' and acknowledged that he suffered from headaches and severe pain in his right leg when walking or standing for any great length of time. His debility was considered to last for at least a year and he was awarded a pension of 3s 9d per week. The Medical Board submitted a further report in 1918, assessing his disability as 10% and temporary and awarding him a gratuity of £17 10s (ref.37). An Albert Lewis Lund, born on 12 July 1898, died in Southport in 1973 at the age of 74; this may well have been the same person.

Harold Ward Mainman had something of a chequered military career. Born in 1879, he enlisted on 12 November 1915 at the age of 36. The 1891 census shows the Mainman family living at 10 Finkle Street, Knaresborough when his father, Thomas was a rate collector. Harold, born in Harrogate, was one of five children and his pre-war occupation is described in his military records as both 'water rate collector' and 'electrical inspector, water works'. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery and recorded his address on the Absent voters list of 1918 as Boroughbridge Road although his army records indicate that his wife, Eleanor Jane Mainman (nee Watts), lived at 5 Alexandra Place in New Scriven and which is the home address he gave on enlisting. He had married Eleanor at Combe Martin in Devon in September 1906. Prior to the war, he had served with the Knaresborough Volunteers. By the end of the war, he was giving his home address as 'Wentworth', in Park Avenue, Knaresborough. He was measured as 5ft 7.5ins tall on joining up, with no distinguishing features and was placed in the Army Reserve for training and mobilized on 14 June 1917 at South Camp, Ripon before being posted to the British Expeditionary Force in France on 22 October 1917. Within the Royal Artillery, he served with 460 Siege Battery from June 1917, transferring to 1 Reinforcing Siege Battery in October 1917 and to 102 Siege Battery at the end of October 1917. His final unit was 184 Siege Battery which he joined in December 1917 (ref.37).

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 1918 he was charged with non-compliance of a Battery order in the field and fined 3 days pay. Then, on 14 May 1918 he was admitted to the 48<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Casualty Clearing Hospital at Rouen suffering from the effects of 'shell gas' and was invalided back to England on board the hospital ship 'Grantully Castle'. At that point he had spent 348 days on active service, of which 208 had been in France with the balance in Britain. He was transferred to a hospital in Weymouth on 18 May 1918 where he spent 28 days being treated for gas poisoning before being moved to the convalescent hospital at Woldingham where he spent a further 49 days. On 1 August 1918, he was transferred again to the Royal Artillery depot at Ripon to complete his convalescence where he stayed until 8 November 1918. Notwithstanding the end of the war, Harold Mainman was then transferred again, this time to the 1<sup>st</sup> Siege Artillery Reserve Brigade at Shoreham in Sussex on 15 November. Presumably irked by this latest move miles from home when the war was already

over, he was charged with being absent from the 11am parade on 22 November 1918 and confined to barracks for three days. Finally, he seems to have been posted back to Ripon where he was discharged from the army on 15 January 1919 from the North Camp, being transferred to Class Z of the Army Reserve. (ref.56). Kelly's Directory for 1936 shows Harold Mainman employed as both a collector for Harrogate Corporation Waterworks (with offices in Brewerton Street, Knaresborough) and as a rating clerk and collector for Knaresborough District Council in York Place. He died in 1953 at the age of 73, whilst still residing in Knaresborough.

Albert Ernest Mallard, from Boroughbridge Road began his military life as a trumpeter in the 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery before becoming a Gunner in the Regiment. His first world war service began early, on 19 August 1914 which was just after the declaration of war and his records show that he was entitled to the 'Mons' clasp on his 1914 Star which means he probably took part in the retreat from Mons. By 1919, when he completed the details of the Absent Voters' List, he was with the 8<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battery, having served throughout the war.

Albert's brother, Frederick Mallard, was also in the Royal Field Artillery, serving as a Lieutenant and then a Captain, having gone to France on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1915. Although his address on the 1918 AVL is given as Boroughbridge Road, his army records have an address of 76 Reads Road in Blackpool. Frederick Mallard was discharged from the army on 21 August 1919.

Harry Mason of Park Avenue served in the Royal Engineers as a Sapper. By 1918 he was attached to the 26<sup>th</sup> Light Railway Workshops (ref.23).

Private William Newbould, a stonemason, lived at 54 Park Avenue where the 1901 Census recorded the 24 year old as being a stonemason, born in Pateley Bridge. He was married to Nellie and their daughter Lilian was just 9 months old at that time. William Newbould went to France and Flanders with the Army Service Corps (ASC). Long afterwards, Lily recalled that 'Dad drove one of the lorries that took shells up to the machine guns. He was at the Somme and Ypres and he did come back' (ref. 9). When he enlisted in September 1915, he was 38 years old and gave his address as 3 Alexandra Place, (New) Scriven, and his profession as motor driver, perhaps as a guarantee to enter the ASC. By 1919, his address on the Absent Voters' List was Boroughbridge Road. William also declared on enlisting that he had served previously in the Yorkshire Hussars Volunteers. By 1915, William and Nellie had had more children. In addition to Lilian, born 1900, there were now also Lena (1904), Harold (1909) and Amy (1913). After initial training, William Newbould was posted to '87 Section H.A.M.T. Bulford' on 6 October 1916, (presumably the 'MT' relates to 'Motor Transport?'), a unit which embarked for France on 25 October that year, leaving from Folkestone and arriving at Bolougne the same day.. Bulford is a small village near Salisbury in Wiltshire which is now dominated by a large army camp, whose brick barracks were built in 1910. Whilst in France, William Newbould was posted to various motor transport units of the ASC.

William Newbould's disciplinary record in the ASC was not exemplary. His first misdemeanour occurred on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1915 when he was in training at Catford and was found to be absent without leave (AWOL) from 2pm until 7.30 the next morning. He was just admonished for this first offence. He repeated the offence on 14 October 1916 whilst at Bulford, being absent from 1am to 6pm; for this he was confined to barracks for a day. Then, on 18 November 1916 whilst in France, he was found to be absent from the 8.30am roll call and was given 2 days Field Punishment No.2. Surprisingly, he was then granted his first 'Good Conduct' badge on 22 September 1917. His final

transgression was also the most serious, going AWOL again whilst in the field for 4 days from 20<sup>th</sup> January 1919. For this, he received 4 days Field Punishment no.2 and forfeited 4 days pay as well as his recently-acquired Good Conduct Badge(ref.37). It seems this last offence was the result of him returning late from leave; he had been granted 14 days leave until 19 January 1919. On being discharged in May that same year however, his CO certified that his sobriety had been good and that he had been a reliable soldier, employed as a lorry driver.

Stephen Plaxton was living at 3/4 Village Terrace when he enlisted at York on 7 November 1915. He was born in Lockton, near Pickering. In 1881, the census shows the Plaxton family living at Kirk Deighton where 5 year old Stephen was the eldest son. His brother George was a year younger and he also had three elder sisters, namely Jessie (12), Annie (10) and Edith (8). By 1901, the family had moved to Haya Park in Knaresborough where his father Herbert was employed as a farm horseman. By this date though, the 15 year old Stephen had already left home; he was working with horses on a farm at Aldwark, where the farmer was Mr Robinson Bosomworth.

Stephen Plaxton married Gertrude Plaxton in York on 7 November 1911. The couple had two children, Herbert (born 13.2.13) and Eleanor (26.6.15). Stephen joined the Hampshire Regiment as a Private (No. 54859), aged 30 and had previously worked as a groom for the Robson family in Knaresborough. He briefly served in the Army Service Corps, for which he was issued the no. R4/111877 and also the Royal Engineers (no. 615102) (ref.40), but was compulsorily transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Hampshires in December 1916 and travelled to Romsey that month to join his new regiment. He was awarded his first Good Conduct Badge on 13 September 1917. His Battalion embarked for France from Folkestone on 10 September 1918 where they were posted to Rouen, before moving to Abbeville on 4 October 1918. He suffered from trench fever at Abbeville at the end of October and had to be invalided back to the UK on 9<sup>th</sup> November, just before the armistice. He was transported across the Channel on the Grantully Castle, a hospital ship which had previously been used in the Gallipoli campaign. On 12 November, he was admitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> General Hospital at Stobhill, Glasgow, where he remained until 27 November when he was discharged, subsequently reporting to the Command Depot at Sutton Coldfield on 11 December 1918 where he was convalescing until 27 January 1919. On this date he was despatched to a Dispersal Station at Clipstone prior to formal demobilisation. Stephen Plaxton was transferred to the Army Reserve on 25 February 1919 when his illness on service was not considered sufficient to warrant the payment of any pension (ref.41). His military character was described as 'very good'. Stephen Plaxton remained in the Knaresborough area after the war and died there in 1952 at the age of 66 (ref.37).

George Plaxton was born on 17 May 1887 at Lockton, Pickering and emigrated to Canada, setting up home in Winnipeg North, in Manitoba according to the 1916 census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, working in Canada as a mail carrier (ref.37). He returned to Europe with the Canadian Expeditionary force (ref.37). He enlisted with the Canadian forces at Sewell, Manitoba, on 16 July 1916 when he named his father as next of kin, providing the address of Old Scriven. George was 5ft 5 ins tall at the time, with brown eyes and black hair. He served as a Sergeant, and his regimental no. was 529634 (ref.56). After the war, George Plaxton appears to have returned to Canada, but sailed to Liverpool on board the White Star vessel 'Canada' which departed from Montreal, arriving on 27 July 1920. On the passenger list, the 33 year old George described himself as a farmer (ref.37). He was travelling with his wife Florence, and their 9 year old daughter, Louie.

Bertie Plaxton, also served with the army although we have no details of his military career. We do however have a family photograph of Bertie in uniform outside the WI hut in Park Grove, just after the end of the war but it is not clear what relation he was to Stephen or George Plaxton.

Houghton Robinson was an army cadet in 1917 when, riding a motor cycle, he was involved in a road accident turning out of Park Grove onto Boroughbridge Road in Knaresborough, sustaining a fractured rib and a punctured lung in a collision with a car (ref.167). He evidently recovered, going on to serve as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoon Guards; in 1918-19 he was based at Aldershot but with a home address of Scriven Road (ref.23). Kelly's Directory of 1917 identifies a Mrs Robinson at Kirkoswald on Scriven Road who had moved elsewhere by 1922. His army medal card however specifies an address in Mermaid Beach, Queensland Australia (ref.37). The only Houghton Robinson to be included in the 1901 UK census was the 2 year old son of Charles and Averell W. Robinson who were then living in West Hartlepool. Charles Robinson was an importer of foreign goods. In 1913, Houghton, then 14, is recorded as a passenger on the 'Vandyck', travelling from Madeira to Southampton with his mother and sister Margery. The ship, one of the Lamport and Holt Line, was en-route from Buenos Aires.

In July 1915 he enlisted into the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps (OTC) as 4894 Private Robinson in the 14<sup>th</sup> Officers' Cadet Battalion; he had just passed his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and was 5ft 4 ins tall, weighing 124 lbs. At that time his home address was given as 22 Carlisle Road in Hove, which was his mother's home and whom he named as next of kin. He was discharged in November 1916, having been appointed to a cadetship in the Royal Military College but the reason for him coming to Scriven as a cadet is unexplained. After completing his cadetship, Houghton Robinson was commissioned into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dragoon Guards. After the war, he evidently returned to Madeira since he is named on the passenger list of the Anselm, a vessel belonging to the Booth Steamship Company Ltd, en-route from Manaus in Brazil to Liverpool, arriving on 11 May 1920. On this occasion, he was travelling with Cecilia Robinson whom he presumably married and was living near Canterbury in Kent (ref.37).

Sidney Marshall Senior had an address on Boroughbridge Road according to the 1918/19 Absent Voters' Lists which also showed that he was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. His army medal card shows that he was then promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and gave his address as 19 Ware Road in Hertford. Sidney Senior had been born in 1876 near Huddersfield and was living with his family at Thurstonland at the time of the 1881 census. His father, Jonathon, was a farmer. By the time of the 1901 census, Sidney was working as a land surveyor and was one of four boarders living with the Keighley family in Harrogate. At that time he was aged 25. He was however living in York when he married Mabel Elizabeth Williamson in Harrogate on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1905 and the marriage certificate gave his occupation as 'engineer's assistant'. He died in the Knaresborough area in 1971, aged 95.

William Henry Sewell and his wife Mary (nee Atkinson, also from Scriven) had two sons in the army, both of whom had been born in Knaresborough. The family lived at Sewell's cottage (now Spinney Croft) which Mary ran as a sweet shop. It was also licensed to sell tobacco. Henry Sewell was a joiner and builder. Their eldest son was Basil Atkinson Sewell who enlisted as a private in the West Yorkshire Regiment on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1916 at the age of 19 years. He was born on 1 August 1896, and his occupation on enlistment was apprentice joiner; his service no. was 23280. He was 5 ft 7 ins tall and at the time of enlistment, he had no teeth but a full set of dentures. On 14 February 1916 he

was transferred to C Company of the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, West Yorkshires but in March 1917 he was then posted to the 185<sup>th</sup> company of the Machine Gun Corps and given a new service number of 30933, embarking at Devonport on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1917 and disembarking at Basra on 9<sup>th</sup> March, a journey of 2 months duration. Here, he joined the Anglo-Indian forces in Mesopotamia. Whilst in the Middle East, he contracted a serious illness and suffered from diarrhoea which was diagnosed as an intestinal problem, causing him to be invalided to India on H.S. Vita on 6 July 1917. His disability was considered sufficient for him to be struck off the fighting strength of the 185<sup>th</sup> Coy. He was admitted to the Alexandra War Hospital in Bombay from 14 July to 1 August 1917, transferring then to the Enteric Depot at Parel in Bombay for further convalescence. After his departure from there in September 1917, he seems to have been attached to the Machine Gun Centre at Mhow, in Madhya Pradesh. Whilst in India, he was again ill, suffering from hepatitis and spent most of April 1918 in the Station Hospital at Mhow.

In November 1919, Basil Sewell was en-route to the UK where he was transferred to the Army Reserve on 20 January 1920 (ref.37). He married Harriet Elizabeth Mills in Harrogate on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1920 and died in the Knaresborough area in 1986, at the age of 90 (ref.37).

His brother, Wilfred Sewell, born in 1898, was 45763 Private Sewell of the South Staffordshire Regiment. He had enrolled on 8 March 1917 when he was 18, giving his occupation as wholesale newsagent. Wilfred was 5 ft 7.5 ins tall and named his mother, Mary Atkinson Sewell of Old Scriven as his next of kin. His initial training was at Brocton Camp, one of two large army camps erected on Cannock Chase in the first few months of the war. Here, he was part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Training Reserve Battalion. In September 1917, Wilfred Sewell was transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment before moving again in April 1918, this time to the 2/6 South Staffs. In May 1918, he was then posted to the 1/5<sup>th</sup> South Staffs which is the unit he recorded on the Absent Voters' Lists of 1918/19. There is a single blemish on his disciplinary record; whilst on parade in June 1918, his uniform was found to be dirty for which he was confined to barracks for 3 days. After the end of the war, on 26 May 1919, he was admitted to the Middlesex War Hospital (a former asylum at Colney in Hertfordshire) with tonsillitis, transferring to the Sobraon Barracks Military Hospital in Colchester on 14 July that year. He spent a further week there before he was taken to the Colchester General Military Hospital, finally being discharged on 16 September 1919. He promptly returned to Old Scriven on a week's leave; his leave form has his rank as 'Signaller' and he seems to have been formally discharged from active service in late October or early November 1919 (ref.37).

Wilfred's granddaughter recalls that he was wounded whilst in the army and, as a result, remained at Scriven, inheriting the family home in due course. The surviving records give no details of any injury other than a brief reference to him being in hospital in 1918 but these documents are incomplete and even those which remain today can be difficult to decipher. Being wounded could however explain why he was posted to another Battalion after being confirmed fit for active service. We have a photograph of Wilfred in uniform as the villagers celebrated the armistice of November 1918 which means he was home at the time, presumably on leave. Later, Wilfred married, his wife being known as 'Nurse Sewell'; she was the village midwife (ref.38). Wilfred Sewell died in 1978, aged 79.

Alwyn Eckette Simpson was a Sapper in the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Surveying Company of the Royal Engineers whose home address in 1918 was Scriven Road (ref.23). He had been born in Knaresborough in

1894 but when he enlisted into the 224<sup>th</sup> Field Company of the Royal Engineers on 17 June 1915, he was aged 20 and living at 144 Carr House Road in Doncaster, where he had been working as a draughtsman. He was nearly 5 ft 8 ins tall and his next of kin was his father, William Harrison Simpson, who was living at 'The Willows' on Scriven Road. A week later, the army tested his professional proficiency and found him to be a very good architectural draughtsman which entitled him to an increase in pay. Alwyn Simpson arrived in France in June 1916 and a year later was posted to the 40<sup>th</sup> Divisional Employment Company of the Labour Corps. In January 1918, he joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Surveying Company of the RE. He was demobilised and sent back to the UK on 7 February 1919, with a faultless disciplinary record. He died in Surrey in 1967, at the age of 72 (ref.37).

Charles Henry Reynard Slingsby, who changed his name from Atkinson in 1900, inherited the Scriven estate in 1912 on the death of his father, the Rev. Charles Slingsby who had also changed his name upon inheriting. Charles junior was the eldest brother of John Slingsby who died on HMS Formidable. Charles was born on 3 August 1874 and served with the Royal Navy as a Lieutenant from 15 January 1888 to 1902 when he resigned. In March 1915 it was announced that he had received a commission in the navy and would shortly be leaving to take up his post (ref.118). He actually rejoined as a Lieutenant Commander on 1 November 1915 and at the beginning of 1916 was reported to be with the British Squadron in the Dardanelles (ref.70). He was demobilised in 1919 and died in 1941. His trio of medals, the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, were sold at Sotheby's in 2009 (ref. 13). Charles Slingsby was the 'father' in the famous 'Slingsby illegitimacy case' which concluded in 1916 and which ended with his son being declared illegitimate. Significant legal costs for the original trial and the appeals had to be borne by Charles Slingsby.

Thomas Slingsby, born on 6 March 1876, was the younger brother of Charles junior and joined the army in 1899. In 1905 he transferred to the Indian Army, joining 'B' Squadron of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry. This had been known as the Punjab Irregular Cavalry but had become the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sam Browne's Cavalry in 1904 (ref.15). The Army list of 1912 records that Thomas Slingsby had then been promoted to the rank of Captain (ref.16) and he was subsequently promoted again to Major on 1 March 1914. During the 1914-18 war, he served in Mesopotamia where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). The citation, published in the supplement to the London Gazette of 10 December 1919, states that the award was given 'for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Tuz Khumati on 29 April 1918. He boldly led his squadron at a gallop against two guns, which he captured and, going through them, charged to the top of the ridge and caused the enemy to surrender'(ref.14). He returned from Bombay in 1921, on board the British India Steam Navigation Company vessel 'Mashobra', which berthed in Plymouth on 13 May that year.

Thomas Slingsby and his wife Dorothy, lived mainly at Romanby, near Northallerton but used Elm Lodge in Scriven as a weekend and holiday home after the second world war when the Hall was still being used by the military authorities. Kelly's Directory records his presence in the village from 1945 onwards but he seems to have left by 1952/53, which is when the hall was severely damaged by fire; it was demolished in 1954. Thomas Slingsby died in 1962 and is buried in Northallerton Cemetery (Section I, row 4); he is also commemorated by a large memorial stone in the Slingsby chapel in Knaresborough church. Thomas Slingsby, together with his father and brother Alan Peter, was responsible for appealing against the original judgement in the Slingsby legitimacy suit and, when the verdict was returned in their favour, his photograph was published in the local press with the news (ref.135).

The third son of the Rev. Charles Slingsby was Alan Peter Slingsby (1885-1938) who married Vera Catchcart in 1914. During the first world war, he was reported to have been with the army in Yorkshire (ref.70). Alan Slingsby had been commissioned into the East Riding Regiment as a Second Lieutenant in March 1909 (LG May 21, 1909 p3873).

The mother of Charles, Thomas, Alan and John Slingsby was Mrs Susan Slingsby nee Reynard who had married the Rev. Charles Slingsby in 1873. By 1915 she was a widow and living at Farnham Lodge, about two miles from Scriven as the Hall had been let to Eric Geddes. Mrs Slingsby erected the memorial to her youngest son, John, in Farnham Church; in April 1915 she had been appointed a lady churchwarden. In May 1915, a total of £17 17s 6d was raised by subscription for the Knaresborough Motor Ambulance Fund with Mrs Slingsby contributing 3s. (ref. 121). She also took an interest in the welfare of the many horses which had been taken for war service and had been present (as one of the prominent supporters) at a large meeting held at the Crown Hotel in Harrogate which had been addressed by Mr. C.G. Fairholme, the Chief Secretary of the RSPCA. The thrust of Mr Fairholme's address was that some 85% of wounded horses were being properly cared for by the Army Veterinary Corps (which was a new part of the British Army), assisted by the RSPCA. Of the 90,000 horses wounded to date, some 70,000 had returned to work after treatment and a fully equipped hospital for horses had already been established. This was a great aid to the war effort and contrasted markedly with the treatment of horses by our allies. Mrs Slingsby was also involved in raising funds for the Navy, organising a stall at Knaresborough market with other prominent ladies. The local paper reported that, as a result of the sale of donated gifts, 23 boxes of fruit and vegetables had been despatched to a naval base for the benefit of the Fleet (ref.129).

With so many wounded servicemen convalescing in the Harrogate area, considerable effort was made to entertain them and large numbers received invitations to local events. Mr Jacob Smith, who was to become a familiar figure around Scriven, was living at Burton Grange in Helperby in 1915 and, together with his wife, entertained 50 wounded servicemen at home that summer. The soldiers were transported to Helperby in a fleet of cars loaned for the purpose by well-off local residents around Harrogate (ref.126).

The Absent Voters' Lists for 1918 records that Alfred Smith was then living in Old Scriven. He was a Private in the 10<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshires and was wounded four times and gassed on another occasion since enlisting in late 1914 or early 1915. He was given two numbers by the Regiment, namely 4839 and 201987, which may indicate a lengthy absence due to injury. He fought at the battles of Beaumont Hamel on the Somme in 1916, the Battle of Cambrai in 1917, the big retreat in the German offensive of spring 1918 and in the final advance. When the war ended, he was in hospital in Boulogne recovering from his most recent wounding. The Harrogate press reported that he, and his brother John, were the sons of Mr and Mrs J Smith of Old Scriven but this does not appear to be the James and Hannah Smith in the village whose son Harry was killed in 1917, see above (ref.199). whilst he was at home in May 1919, awaiting his formal discharge from the army, he rescued a young woman from the river Nidd in the vicinity of High Bridge. She had been seen having an 'excited conversation' with a young man, on conclusion of which she walked into Bilton Fields and threw herself into the river. By coincidence, Alfred Smith had, before joining the army, rescued two women and a man from the same part of the river when their boat had capsized (ref.211). In recognition of his latest rescue, the local paper published an account of the tale, together with his photograph.

John Smith junior also appears on the AVL for 1918 which states that he was a Private in the Labour Corps. The Harrogate Herald however has him in the Motor Transport section of the Army Service Corps in December 1918 when he was in a French hospital, suffering from dysentery, having previously been both wounded and gassed. John seems to have joined the army in mid 1915 (ref.199).

Albert Sorrell of Victoria Avenue was a Private in the Motor Transport unit of the Army Service Corps (ref.23). Born in Knaresborough in 1880, the 1881 census shows the Sorrell family living in Hay-a-Park in Knaresborough where Albert was the youngest of five children. His father Richard was a farm labourer. By the time of the 1891 census Albert, then aged 11, is still living in Hay-a-Park and is described as a scholar. Albert appears in the 1901 census working as a groom and boarding with the Potter family in Thornton-le-Clay in Yorkshire.

Harry Steele was born on Leeds c1879, the son of Frank and Letitia Steele. At the time of the 1881 census, the Steeles were living in Scriven where Frank was a butcher and Harry was shown as the only child at home at that time. The 1891 census however shows that Harry had an elder sister, Ada, then 13, and there were also more arrivals of Clarence (9), Gertrude (7), Nelley (5), Emma (3) and Upton (1). Although the family were still in Scriven, Frank Steele was now an agricultural labourer. By 1901, when his father was a farmer, Harry had left Scriven but had a new sister and brother there, Lily (8) and Bowland (6). Harry Steele served in the army as a Private in 406 Agricultural Company of the Labour Corps (ref.23). Army records show one Harry Steele in the Labour Corps, with a service no. of 543359, just one digit difference from the number registered on the AVL. He had also served as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery (no. 154249).

Private George Stott was the brother of Tom Stott who was killed in the war, see above. Details of his military service are unknown but he attended his brother's funeral with his wife (ref. 2) and survived the war, dying at the age of 59 in 1953. Like Tom, he too is buried in Knaresborough cemetery along with their parents. In 1919, George Stott gave his address as Chain Lane, Knaresborough (ref.23). Because her father was an invalid, it was his daughter, Eva, who helped run the shop after the war (ref.9).

Frank Sturdy was the son of George John and Frances Hannah Sturdy and lived at 'Eden Holme' in Park Grove. His father was the Knaresborough postmaster (ref.202). Frank Sturdy served as a Gunner in both the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery. He was born in Sheffield and the 1901 census shows the family resident at 6, Springwell Terrace East in Northallerton where Frank, aged 5, was the only child. Also living with them were William and Frances Wintersgill, Frances' parents. Frank enlisted at Darlington on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1914 into the No. I Depot of the RFA at the age of 19. In civilian life, he was a tailor and measured 5 ft 7 ins in height, weighing 129 lbs. He was posted overseas for the first time on 24 August 1915. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 1916, some pay was deducted when some items of his kit were found to be deficient. On 1<sup>st</sup> August 1916, he suffered a gunshot wound in the right shoulder and, after being treated at no.34 Casualty Clearing Station, was evacuated to England on the hospital ship 'Panama' and admitted to the military hospital in York on 7<sup>th</sup> August, where he remained until discharged on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1916, a convalescence of 68 days. Later that month, he was attached to the Command Depot in Ripon but then posted to 7 Depot (location unknown) just before Christmas. He was then sent back out to France on 17 March 1917, embarking at Southampton and disembarking at Havre the following day. He remained in France until

November 1917 when he was transferred to the Italian front. On his return in March 1918, he was posted to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the RFA in France, had a spell at Base in May and was then posted to 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade in August 1918. He suffered from the effects of shell gas on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and after initial treatment in France, was invalided home a second time on 16 September, on this occasion on the hospital ship 'Grantully Castle'. In England he was admitted to another War Hospital on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1918 for a further 72 days, being discharged from there on 29 November 1918.

His served abroad in both France and Italy:

France 24.8.15 to 6.8.16 (348 days)

France 18.3.17 to 14.11.17 (242 days)

Italy 15.11.17 to 28.3.18 (134 days)

France 29.3.18 to 17.9.18 (173 days)

He was discharged from the army on 13 February 1919, being transferred to the Z Class reserve (ref.37). Immediately afterwards, whilst in Northallerton, he fell ill, falling victim to the flu pandemic then sweeping across the world. His mother, Frances Sturdy, travelled from Scriven to nurse him but the day after her return, on 16 February 1919, she died of influenza at the age of 49 (ref.202). A few days later, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, her husband George (aged 50) also died; both are buried in Knaresborough cemetery and these dates are engraved on their single gravestone. We have not discovered what happened to Frank Sturdy but he does not appear to be buried with his parents which may indicate that he survived his illness.

John William Surr was born in Knaresborough in 1882 and at the time of the 1901 census was living at Butterhills Farm with the Webster family (see below) for whom he worked as a cowman. He served as a Private with the West Yorkshire Regiment, fighting in the Balkans from July 1915 (ref.37). The 1891 census shows him living, aged 9, in Union Street, Knaresborough with his widowed mother, Sarah, who worked as a winder and his sister Elizabeth, aged 6.

Another footballer who had played for both the Scriven and Knaresborough teams was Percy Thompson who lived in York Place in Knaresborough. A Private in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment, he was killed on the Somme on 23 July 1916. His mother received the following letter, dated 7/8/16: Dear Mrs. Thompson, I am afraid you will have heard how your son fell in action on July 23<sup>rd</sup> during an attack on some German trenches. I know you must feel his loss keenly but he has given his life for his country. What could be better than that? With the deepest sympathy of all the officers and men of his company, I remain, yours truly, T.E. Dunbar (Captain)'. Prior to the war, Percy Thompson had worked for a Mr Mitchell who was a painter and decorator in Knaresborough (ref.150). He had been 26 years old when he was killed.

Thomas Fawcett Turner was originally from Leeds and had worked as a railway clerk before the war. By 1918, Thomas had registered his address on the Absent Voters' List as Victoria Avenue in New Scriven. Private Thomas Turner served with the Labour Corps and was reported to have been wounded in 1916. This may, or may not, have been the same case reported in the 1917 edition of Ackrill's Annuals which published his photograph together with the brief details that he was in hospital suffering from trench fever, an ailment confirmed by the Harrogate Herald which also

published his photograph in 1917 (ref.177). On the AVL, his details are recorded as 'Thomas F. Turner', with a service no of 551884 but the only record of a Thomas Turner in the Labour Corps with a similar number has a one of 551888 (ref.37). If this is the same man, he also served in the Middlesex Regiment as 23329 Private T. Turner.

Edwin Walker from Old Scriven was a Private in the Yorkshire Hussars. His photograph appeared in the Harrogate Herald on 8 September 1915.

Thomas Webster was the youngest son of Thomas and Mary Webster who farmed at Butterhill farm, now the location of Knaresborough Golf Club. Born at Ninevah, Marton-cum-Grafton, Thomas junior was 7 years old at the time of the 1901 census and living at home with his parents and elder brother Harry, then aged 17. By the time he enlisted into the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment in December 1915, he was described as a farmer. He was 6 ft 1 in tall when he enlisted and gave his mother's name as his next of kin. He was posted to the 5<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion and does not appear to have served overseas until November 1918 when he was posted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion and transferred to the BEF in France. He was entitled to the British War Medal only at the end of hostilities. His sole breach of discipline involved overstaying his final leave in October 1918, for which he was confined to camp for 5 days. He was demobilised on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1919, being transferred to Class Z of the Army Reserve.

Mr and Mrs Jonas Brooke Wilkinson of New Scriven had nine sons, many of whom were engaged in military service although only two (Percival and Ernest) are included in the Absent Voters' List of 1919 as living at Park Grove. Other sources give an address of 'Whitwell House, 5 Victoria Avenue, Scriven'. At the time of 1891 census, the family were living at 62 Seacroft Road in York where the children were listed as Britton (aged 13), Alfred Isaac (11), Sydney Whitwell (6), Wilfred Brooke (4), Gerald Albert (2), and Jonas Percival (4 months). By the time of the next census in 1901, the Wilkinsons had moved to Knaresborough High Street and had additional children, namely Ernest Godfrey (then aged 7), Reginald Nelson (5), Elsie Mary Fanny (4) and William Gordon (6 months), making a total of 9 sons and a single daughter. By the time of the latter census, Alfred had left home and was working as a hosier's assistant, boarding with the Hardwick family at 30 Howard Street in Bradford.

The Harrogate Herald featured seven sons by photograph in one edition (ref.184); the paper named these men (incorrectly) as Gunner W.G. Wilkinson, Royal Garrison Artillery; Captain A.J. Wilkinson, Canadian Infantry; Lance-corporal E.G. Wilkinson Northumberland Fusiliers; Trooper B. Wilkinson, Household Batt.; Staff-sergeant P.J. Wilkinson, AOC; G.W. Wilkinson, Technical Institute, National Service and Private G Wilkinson, (wounded), West Yorkshire Regiment.

When Jonas Wilkinson died in late 1918, Alfred and Jonas jnr. were unable to attend the funeral in Knaresborough because of their military commitments and Britton had already been killed by that time. The local paper did however list those other sons who did attend, these being Mr. Sydney Wilkinson of Middlesbrough, Private Wilfred Wilkinson, Mr. George Wilkinson, and Lance-Corporal Ernest Wilkinson. Again, the names published do not correspond precisely with the names identified in the census data. The widow of Britton Wilkinson also attended the funeral (ref.199).

The eldest son, Britton Wilkinson, was killed during the war, see above.

By the time of the war, Alfred Wilkinson (born 21.12.79) had emigrated to Canada where he featured in the 1916 Canada Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta (ref.37). When he enlisted into the Canadian Expeditionary Force in June 1916, he was married to Lena Beatrice Wilkinson and living at 146, 20<sup>th</sup> Street West, Prince Albert in Saskatchewan where he worked as an insurance agent. Prior to this, he had served three and a half years in the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of the Canadian Militia, the local Volunteers, experience which resulted in him serving as a Captain in the 243<sup>rd</sup> Overseas Battalion of the Expeditionary Force (ref.56).

There is no indication in the surviving records that Sydney Wilkinson undertook military service during the war.

Wilfred Brooke Wilkinson was born in York on 23 March 1887 and served as both a Gunner with the RGA and a Private in the Army Pay Corps. His next of kin was his wife Alice (nee Gill) whom he had married in 1914 and who lived at Ash Dene on Hambleton Grove in Knaresborough. In civilian life he managed a printers & stationers business. He was 28 when he enlisted on 10 December 1915 and he fought in France and Belgium as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, embarking from Southampton on 25 September 1917 and arriving in France the following day. He suffered from shell shock in November 1917 whilst near Ypres. He was pulling a gun into position when he was blown up by a shell. He apparently spent two days in a dugout before being taken to a Clearing Hospital in the field and from there, to Etaples 56 General Hospital. He was then invalided back to England, spending 45 days in Queen Mary's Military hospital in Whalley, Lancashire and then a further 37 days in the Military Hospital at York. His first posting on being discharged from hospital was the RGA Command Depot at Catterick, from where he went to Weymouth and coastal defence duties. In October 1918, he was posted to the West London Anti-Aircraft Defence Command at Putney Heath and, the following month, transferred to the Army Pay Corps. In the opinion of the Army Medical Board, he suffered no permanent disability as a result of his time in the army. Wilfred Wilkinson was discharged from the army on 17 April 1919 and died in the Knaresborough area in 1963, at the age of 76.

Gerald Albert Wilkinson was born in York in 1888 and served as a Private with the West Yorkshire Regiment. He was wounded in 1918 (refs.184 & 185).

Jonas Percival Wilkinson was born in York in 1890 and died in Derby in 1964 at the age of 73. He was apparently known by his middle name and served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Ordnance Corps. He served overseas in the Balkans from September 1915 and was transferred to the Army Reserve on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1919.

Ernest Godfrey Wilkinson was born in 1894. He served as a Lance-Corporal in the Northumberland Fusiliers. Ernest was wounded in the left shoulder on 22 March 1918 during the great German offensive of that month and evacuated to Aberdeen where he spent time in hospital. At that time, he had been in the army for 2 years and in France for 16 months. Prior to the war, Ernest had been employed by Messrs. W.H. Slater & Sons in West Park, Harrogate (ref.185). Some accounts give his middle name as 'George'.

Reginald Nelson Wilkinson, born in 1895, died in Knaresborough in early 1915 at the age of 19. The cause of his death is unknown but would not appear to be associated with military service. He was an assistant stationer.

William Gordon Wilkinson was born in 1900. In their article of April 1918, the local press described him as being at the 'Technical Institute' (ref.184); at this time he would have been just 17 years of age. When attending his father's funeral in December 1918, when the war had ended, he was given the civilian title of 'Mr' Gordon Wilkinson, so it appears he was too young to have been on active service.

The departure of many men for the armed forces created opportunities at home and in April 1915 Miss Wood of New Scriven volunteered her services to the Post Office and was appointed postlady for Arkendale. She was the first lady in the district to assume such a role (ref.120). A few months later, when the Post Office had expressed an intention to employ female labour to the fullest extent, further details emerged. The women who were most in demand were aged between 23 and 30 and able to cycle. They would be paid 'a fair wage' although women below the age of 23 would be paid less. The loads would be made suitable for women workers with no-one being asked to carry more than 20lbs. Women were equipped with protective clothing including waterproof skirts and coats, gaiters and would wear a distinguishing armband. Their pouches or delivery bags were carried by means of a shoulder strap (ref.130).

Herbert V. Wood was the son of John Wood from Tockwith and Mrs. Wood from Scriven. He joined the Royal Navy in 1899 and was on HMS Sparrowhawk, a torpedo boat destroyer, when that vessel struck a rock and foundered off the Saddle Islands in the China Sea in 1904. By the time of the war, he was serving as an Engine Room Artificer (ERA) on board HMS Blanche which was a cruiser. In 1915 he was awarded a Long Service medal for 15 years good conduct (also apparently known as 'undiscovered crime') and his photograph was published in the local newspaper (ref.113).

James Ellis Wood began his military life as a Private in the 3-5<sup>th</sup> West Yorkshire Regiment. The only son of Mr J E Wood, he lived at Woodcliffe on Boroughbridge Road and, in 1916, married a Miss Hartley of Wentworth House in Park Avenue, New Scriven (ref.145). A photograph of the groom in uniform, together with his bride was published in the local paper (ref.146). Subsequently however, James Wood transferred to the RAF, with whom he served as a Mechanic in 150 Squadron (ref.23). 150 Squadron had been formed on 1 April 1918 when the RAF also came into being and was based in Salonika, Macedonia until it was disbanded in September 1919. The Electoral Register records James Wood as living in Park Avenue in 1918.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. Others organised food parcels for the men at the front and in German POW camps. Soldiers often wrote letters to the local press, expressing thanks to the ladies of Knaresborough for parcels which were very gratefully received (ref.165).

Because of the importance of food production at home, a local committee was formed to employ women on the land. Jacob Smith who was to become a well known figure in Scriven although he did not move there until after the war, was a prominent member of that committee. By the summer of 1915, the committee had already established twelve girls in a large and previously empty farmhouse in the area. Other girls lived in at neighbouring farms and were principally engaged in activities such as hoeing, haymaking, weeding and fruit picking. The girls in question had been found through the Labour Exchange (ref. 126). During the 1939-45 war, his daughter, Winifred Jacob-Smith would undertake a similar role at Scriven (see below). This local initiative seems then to have been overtaken by a national scheme as food production assumed an ever-increasing importance. By 1918, adverts were appearing in the press for women, urgently required in April, May and June to

drop potatoes, dock vegetable crops and weed. Holiday workers had already volunteered for work in July and August but the additional labour was being sought to ensure good harvests in the autumn (ref.186). This initiative was being co-ordinated by a body known as the Womens' Land Service Corps, based in London but by May they appear to have evolved into the Womens' Land Army (ref.187) who organised a large open air recruitment event in Harrogate to help replace the 30,000 agricultural workers who had been called to military service (ref. 188). Well into 1919, the demand for female labour on the land was still increasing and the minimum wage for the WLA was raised by 2s 6d a week to 22s 6d/week for the first 3 months labour which included training, and 25s/week thereafter (ref.204).

Schoolchildren were also used to boost food production. Teaching staff at the Knaresborough schools instructed their pupils on the production of vegetables and they worked local allotments, some of which were photographed in the local press (ref.171).

Scriven celebrated the armistice of 1918 with sports on the green, watched by Fred Clapham, sitting on the steps of the 'grandstand' (ref. 9). The town of Knaresborough presented an illuminated card to all men from the town who had served in the war; an illustration of the card was published in the 1920 edition of Ackrill's Annuals.

A scout hut, presented to Knaresborough scouts in the 1920s, came from Ripon Army Camp and was also used by the Anglicans for Sunday School. It stood for many years at the junction of Park Avenue and Park Grove, used by the Womens' Institute (ref.9) and for many wedding receptions. We have a photograph of a Mrs Plaxton outside the hut on such an occasion with her sons Bertie and George, the former being dressed in the uniform of a British soldier. The picture was probably taken just after the first world war when the Plaxtons lived at 3/4 Village Terrace.

### Second World War

On 27 April 1939, the British Parliament passed the Military Training Act which required young men aged 20 and 21 to undertake 6 months military training. On the outbreak of war, they then passed the National Service (Armed Forces) Act under which all men between 18 and 41 were liable for conscription (ref 6). Details of who was to register and when were set out in local newspapers and men were required to attend at the due time and date with their National Registration identity Cards. It was emphasised that men were not exempt from registration merely because of their employment in reserved occupations (although this may have been the case). Conscientious objectors were also required to register but were permitted to also apply for registration in the register of conscientious objectors (ref.43).

The two names on the Old Scriven memorial are Arthur Bradley and Thomas Cooper.

### Arthur Bradley

Guardsman Arthur Bradley served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Grenadier Guards. His regimental number was 262254. He died on 7 November 1943 aged 22 and is commemorated on the Cassino Memorial, panel 3, which commemorates over 4000 servicemen who took part in the Italian campaign and have no known grave(ref.1). He was the son of Joseph Herbert and Norah Bradley (see above) and lived at Bradley's Cottage on the village green (now Oak Lea).

The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Grenadier Guards was the first to land in Italy and was immediately engaged in fighting around the Salerno beachhead. As part of the 56<sup>th</sup> Division (the Black Cats) it was given the task of attacking Mount Camino via Bare Arse Ridge and it was just before midnight on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1943 that the Battalion began its climb up the ridge to capture points 727 (the objective of No. 4 Company), and 819 (by No.2 Company). The Guards were forced to attack in single file as the Coldstreams, who had their own objectives, were being pinned down by mines and Spandau (German machine guns) fire. They successfully took Points 819 and 727 the following day, 7<sup>th</sup> November, and dug in to defend. Despite being under very heavy fire from German machine guns and mortars, the Guards held these positions (ref.76) but at some point during the day, Arthur Bradley was killed. The Battalion descended from the mountain on 12<sup>th</sup> November with a fighting strength of only 263 men and was formally disbanded in 1944(ref. 77). The nearby Italian village of Rocca D'Evandro now has a street named 'Grenadier Strada' to honour the Regiment (ref.78).

### Thomas Cooper

Private Thomas Cooper served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment. His regimental number was 4752963. He died on 11 May 1944 aged 30 and is buried in the Taukkyan War Cemetery (grave ref 4.E.17) in Burma (now Myanmar). He was the son of George and Emily Cooper of Old Scriven (ref.1) who resided at the Blacksmith's Cottage, adjacent to Ivy cottage; George Cooper was a blacksmith by trade. One report of the Regiment's time in Burma, spent harrassing the Japanese lines of communication, described the terrain as 'some of the world's worst mountain jungles' (ref.81). Another local soldier, Corporal George Boyle of Knaresborough gave an account of his time in Burma whilst home on leave in 1945. He said that 'Burma was about the worst country in the world to fight in, mountainous, inhospitable and extremely wet. During the Chindit operation, when the British columns penetrated behind the Japanese lines, the men had to fight the country as well as the enemy. They forced their way over steep mountain tracks using mules as transport, and when the mules could get no further,, carrying their equipment themselves. The rain was terrific during the monsoon season, tracks were washed away or blocked by landslides, and streams became too swollen to cross. The men had no spare clothes, and when they got wet, they stayed wet. Occasionally, it was possible to find shelter in the bamboo and grass 'bashas' of the natives, but more often than not, the men had to spend their nights in the open. There was the ever-present danger of malaria and dysentery...' (ref.84).

Additionally however, Scriven experienced other deaths on war service as set out below.

### John Erskine Rudland Wood

John Wood was the son of Ernest Rudland Wood and Annie Ravina Wood of Ripon and is also commemorated on the Knaresborough cenotaph. He was born in 1895 and had fought with the Royal Engineers in WW1, when he had been both gassed and wounded. His home address was given as 4 Alexandra Place (ref. 58) though he earned a living as a merchant seaman after 1918. His name appears on records as third engineer on the 'Southlea' which berthed in New York in 1923, having been engaged at Immingham on 17 January 1923. He was, at this time, 5ft 4 inches in height, weighing 8st 9lbs and with no distinguishing features. (ref. 8).Life at sea apparently took its toll for he filed for divorce in 1928 against his wife, citing a Herbert Hutchinson as co-respondent (ref.7) though he seems to have remarried since his wife is recorded as being resident in Alexandra Place in 1942. During the second world war, he served with the Merchant Navy. His last voyage was as

second engineer on the SS River Afton, a steam merchant ship built on the Clyde in 1935 (ref.6). In 1942, the River Afton was part of the infamous arctic convoy PQ17 en route from Middlesbrough to Archangel via Reykjavik and was torpedoed and sunk by U703 north of the Kola inlet. Laden with military supplies for Russia, the convoy lost 24 of its 35 merchant ships. He was 47 years of age when he died on 5 July 1942. He was severely wounded when the ship was hit and, although the surviving crew members were able to get him onto a life-raft, he died shortly afterwards. (ref.58). John Wood was commemorated for his bravery on the River Afton (ref. 5). He is also remembered on panel 87 of the Tower Hill Memorial.

#### John Lawrence Rowe

John Lawrence Rowe hailed from York but married Mollie Fairman of Victoria Avenue in February 1941. He had worked as a PT master at 'Knaresborough Modern School' but was then a Pilot Officer in the RAFVR. The wedding took place at Park Grove Methodist Church (ref.46). Tragically, John Rowe was killed only the following year over Germany with 83 Squadron. He died on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1942 and is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, grave ref. 21.B.3. (ref.1). His name appears on the Knaresborough war memorial. His brother-in-law was Major Donald Fairman who served in the Far East, see below.

#### John Flanagan

John Flanagan was a Leading Aircraftman in the RAF, stationed at Dishforth with 51 Squadron. At that time, the squadron was flying twin-engined Whitley bombers and had been the first to fly over Germany. Just before midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1940, he was travelling back to his base on a bus when a line of bombs fell across Scriven. When the bus stopped on Boroughbridge Road in Scriven, John Flanagan got off, apparently to permit someone else to board, and a bomb exploded nearby. He was severely wounded by shrapnel, and died in hospital some hours later. (ref.54). He came from Jarrow and is buried in Jarrow Cemetery (ref.1).

#### George William Revell

George Revell was a Chief Officer in the Merchant Navy, having gone to sea at the age of 15. He was married to Winifred Revell and their home address was 35 Park Avenue. Before the war, he had worked on cruise ships taking tourists to Norway but during the war he had seen service in the Mediterranean. He was lost at the age of 35 when his ship, SS Volo, was sunk by U-75 on 28 December 1941. The Volo had previously assisted in the evacuation of Crete and in running supplies to the beleaguered garrison at Tobruk and for this sterling work, the ship's company had been commended (ref.57). The SS Volo was a cargo vessel built on the Tyne by Swan Hunter for Elleman's Wilson Line of Hull which is where George Revell was born. Her last voyage was as part of convoy ME-8 from Tobruk to Alexandria, empty but in ballast. Her captain was George Ronald Whitfield. She was torpedoed and sunk about 45 miles north of the Egyptian coast with the loss of 20 of her crew of 38. Two and a half hours later, the U-75 herself was sunk by the convoy escorts, HMS Legion and HMS Kipling. George Revell has no grave and is commemorated on Panel 115 of the Tower Hill Memorial in London. His name does not however appear on either the Scriven war memorials or the Knaresborough memorial.

#### Alfred Bradshaw Linden

Alfred Linden was the eldest son of Alfred Linden senior who served in the army during the first world war (see above) and who had a grocer's shop in New Scriven. Alfred junior married Betty Thorpe in 1937 and the couple had a son, christened Alfred C. Linden in 1940 (ref.37). Alfred senior however died in 1941 at the age of 27 and is buried in Knaresborough cemetery, with his name being recorded on the Knaresborough cenotaph. His gravestone gives him the rank of Private although the grave is unregistered with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which suggests that he did not die on active service but possibly due to an accident or illness. Other details of his military service remain unknown. His younger brother was Ronald Linden who served with the Royal Navy, see below.

Other Scriven men and women served during the war:

Ronald Linden was born in Scriven in 1920, lived in Park Avenue and won a scholarship to Knaresborough Grammar School; he left to study medicine in 1939. His father was Alfred Linden who served with the Royal Artillery during WW1, see above. His studies interrupted by the war, Ronald Linden left Medical School in 1940 to join the Royal Navy in which he served throughout the war on T and U class submarines, culminating in his promotion to First Lieutenant. His most notable service was on board HMS Unseen, (1943-44), based in Malta and patrolling the Mediterranean. He returned to Medical School in Leeds in 1946 and rose to Emeritus Professor, specialising in cardiovascular studies. Ronald Linden died in April 2010 (ref. 17).

Alan Todd was the only son of Mr and Mrs Percy Todd of Camelot, Greengate Lane in Scriven. In 1940, he was 19 years old and serving in the Fleet Air Arm as a Naval Gunner (First Class). In December 1939 he had escaped with a sprained arm when his aircraft crash-landed in the south of England. On that occasion, his pilot was Sub-Lieutenant Ralph Richardson, the actor. On 9 April 1940 though, the Germans began their invasion of Norway. On 12 April, Todd and his pilot were flying off the Norwegian coast when they were hit by anti-aircraft fire near Bergen, causing them to ditch into a fjord. The aircraft sank but the two men escaped injury and, using their rubber dingy, managed to reach the shore. The local doctor, having checked them for injury, took them by fishing boat to an island where they were hidden in a house in the woods, the Germans being in Bergen some 8 miles away. They remained hidden for 8 days, having been posted missing in the UK, until arrangements were made with Norwegian forces who provided a guide to take them to the fishing port of Aalesund, north of Bergen. Here, they made contact with British forces which had only landed in Norway on April 14<sup>th</sup> to assist the country in resisting a German occupation. From Aalesund, the two men returned to the UK by steamer, arriving home in early May and having been missing for three weeks. Alan Todd was given two weeks leave which he spent at home and with some understatement said 'it was just one of those things and we got away with it' (ref.42). He seems to have survived the war.

The newspaper however did not tell the whole story. Alan Todd's flight on 12 April 1940 was not his first to Norway. When the Germans invaded, they landed troops in Bergen harbour early on 9 April, supported by two cruisers, the Konigsberg and the Koln. The Konigsberg had been damaged by the harbour defences and made unseaworthy so when the Koln left Bergen, fearing the arrival of a British fleet, the Konigsberg had been unable to follow suit. In the early morning of 10 April, aircraft from 800 and 803 squadrons took off from Hatston on Orkney and headed for Bergen. They were flying Skuas, a two-man dive bomber and Norway was at the very limit of their range. Alan Todd was

the gunner/wireless operator of a reserve aircraft from 800 squadron in the second wave of the attack; his plane was piloted by Acting Pilot officer James Alexander Gardner. The attack sunk the *Konigsberg* at her moorings and with the exception of a Skua from 803 squadron which crashed, killing its crew, all aircraft returned safely to Orkney. This was the first instance of a major warship being sunk by aerial attack but the success was given no publicity by the British. This was because they were unsure which ship they had sunk and they were anxious not to repeat the propaganda blunder committed by the Germans who had incorrectly claimed to have sunk the *Ark Royal* (ref.45). It was two days later therefore that Gunner Todd returned to the Norwegian coast where his Skua was shot down. We do not know the identity of his pilot on 12<sup>th</sup> April but it is probable that it would again have been PO Gardner. Skuas carried out further attacks on German shipping in Bergen harbour, most notably on 14<sup>th</sup> April, but by then Alan Todd was already in hiding on a Norwegian island.

The action over Norway was not the end of the war for Alan Todd. In September 1940, he was posted to the Middle East and saw service in Libya and Malta as a Leading Airman. In April 1941 however he was interned in French territory as a result of a forced landing there (ref.48). This turned out to be French North Africa where he spent 19 months in internment camps in Tunisia and Algeria. By coincidence, he was shot down on 12 April 1941, exactly one year to the day that his aircraft had been shot down over Norway. On this occasion, he had been attacking an Italian convoy heading for Tripoli when the plane was hit and came down about a mile off the Tunisian coast from where he and his pilot swam ashore in their flying kit. They walked along the coast to a village where the local gendarmes took them into custody. Initially, the first internment camp at Tripoli was reasonable but subsequently the attitude of the French authorities changed and he was sent to Laghouat camp in the desert, some 370 miles south of Algiers where he endured 13 months in terrible conditions. Summer temperatures reached 120 degrees whilst it was bitterly cold on winter nights. Alan Todd was only the 20<sup>th</sup> internee to arrive at the camp and there was no proper sleeping accommodation until bunk beds were erected six months prior to his repatriation. Before that, the men slept on straw, shoulder to shoulder, 50 men to each hut. The men lived on lentils and macaroni. Todd took part in one escape attempt, digging a tunnel 50 yards long with bread knives. In June 1942, prisoners escaped and managed to get 30 miles away but they were all captured and served 30 days in solitary confinement as a punishment. The Red Cross sent educational books and Alan Todd studied French, meteorology and navigation at the camp, despite being hampered by a lack of paper. The internees heard news of the Allied landings in North Africa on the camp radio. With their numbers swollen by sailors from the cruiser 'Manchester' and the destroyer 'Havoc' which had been sunk in operations to supply Malta, the camp was relieved by the allies and the men taken to Algiers by lorry from where they were ferried back to Britain in time for Christmas (ref.59).

Another internee from Tunisia at this time was a Mr E.G. Lee of the Royal Navy who wrote of his experience to the Red Cross in London. The Red Cross had initiated a 'Penny-A-Week' fund for British POWs which, in early 1943, was raising £70,000 per week. Mr Lee wrote:

'Since coming home from Tunisia where I was a prisoner for 14 months, I felt I must write to the Red Cross to thank them for the very welcome parcels received during our imprisonment. When we were first taken, and for four months afterwards, we were all on the point of actual starvation, the food consisting of a ladle of macaroni and a piece of bread each day. Then the Red Cross parcels arrived. We received one every ten days and as far as food was concerned our troubles were over, and we

were feeding practically as well as the people at home. The cigarette and clothing parcels were also very welcome' (ref.100).

Audrey Hines worked for the military authorities at Scriven as a civilian and recalls working with one of Churchill's cipher clerks, having first been vetted by MI5. She met various military personnel in the course of her duties and remembers a leading figure in the French resistance being here at one point and, towards the end of the war, one of the German physicists who had been working on the Nazi atom bomb project. He was subsequently taken to the USA. Her boss at the time had responsibility for all the air-raid wardens between Skipton and the Hambleton Hills (ref. 18).

George Marmaduke Fossick lived at Jessamine House, 24 Park Grove and was a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF. In 1941, he had the unhappy duty of giving evidence of identification to the York Coroner in an inquest on the death of his mother, Louisa Fossick who died on 13<sup>th</sup> February of that year, aged 72 (ref.46). During the first world war, George Fossick had also served in the RAF, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Born in 1899, he would have been 40 at the start of the war and he died in 1959 at the age of 60, whilst living in Cambridge (ref.37).

Major Donald Fairman, son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Fairman of 15 Victoria Avenue, had attended Harrogate grammar School where his father had taught PT. A keen footballer, he played centre half for Knaresborough Town, Yorkshire Amateurs and the Corinthians. His eldest sister, Mollie Fairman married John Lawrence Rowe who was a pilot in the RAFVR and who was killed during the war (see above). During the war, Donald Fairman was a Signals Officer in the Royal Corps of Signals and served in the Far East, including with the Chindits in Burma (ref.20). As a Second Lieutenant, Donald Fairman, who was 24 in 1942, had been on a vessel which had been sunk by enemy aircraft, sending home a telegram 'Am safely in Bombay, after being bombed and sunk' (ref.49). More details were published later in the Harrogate press (ref.60). His unit had retreated to Singapore over the causeway under bombardment from Japanese aircraft and artillery whilst the Japanese forces effected a landing in Malaya. With the rest of the British forces, Donald Fairman was hemmed into Singapore feeling 'like rats in a trap' until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1942. After a shell had pierced the room in which he was billeted (in a museum), he was ordered to report to the docks with 18 of his men where they boarded a ship. They were shelled whilst boarding and leaving the dockside but then were stuck in a minefield until dawn whilst Singapore burned behind them. After extricating the vessel from the minefield in daylight, they made full steam ahead until coming under attack from Japanese aircraft which dive-bombed the ship, killing and wounding a number of men including some under the charge of Donald Fairman. The ship's engines were put out of action and, about 3 hours later, the Japanese returned, bombing from a height of 50 feet and sinking the vessel. Some of the wounded were put into lifeboats but Donald Fairman could swim and spent two and a half hours in the shark-infested waters clinging to a plank of wood. Eventually, another ship picked them the survivors and, sailing all night, managed to reach Sumatra where they raced to Padang, just ahead of the invading Japanese. Here, they were told that the only boats were going to Java but this did not appeal so Fairman and a friend began preparing a small boat for the hazardous 2000 mile voyage to India 'as scatter-brained as ever'. Just before they embarked on this journey, the Royal Navy appeared at Padang and took them off. On that vessel he met a Harrogate man called Watson, and four days later, they arrived in India. Donald Fairman went on to serve with the Chindits in Burma, fighting the Japanese. His father, Malcom, may have been the M.J.T. Fairman who was a Lieutenant in the Knaresborough Home Guard during the war, having held a commission with the Green

Howards during the first world war (Check & REFERENCE!). At the end of the war, Donald Fairman married Irene Buck of Tunbridge Wells who had served for more than 4 years in the A.T.S. The ceremony in Tunbridge Wells was performed by the Rev. Percy Kingston who had himself served with the Chindits behind the Japanese lines in Burma (ref.92).

Signalman Alfred Eric Whiteley had an even closer encounter with the Japanese, which he was very fortunate to survive. He lived at Barberry House on Greengate Lane before moving to Thistle Hill in Knaresborough and served with Chindit forces in Burma. Alfred Whiteley was 19 at the time, the youngest member of a column of airborne forces dropped many miles behind the Japanese lines in Burma. When supplies were dropped in by parachute, this alerted some nearby Japanese soldiers who were able to intercept the rations. They then sent up Verey lights and charged the British troops. Alfred Whiteley saw the enemy rushing towards him and fired but his arm was then broken by a slashing sword. He fired again with his other hand and as he fell, he was bayoneted several times. He fired off four shots and believes he hit three of the Japanese attackers. He was left on the ground for dead and eventually found by another British patrol who carried him away on a litter before he was flown out of Burma to a hospital on the Assam border. There, he was one of the patients to whom the Viceroy of India spoke when he visited the injured troops. Prior to volunteering for the army, Alfred Whiteley was employed as a clerk in the Public Assistance Office, firstly in Harrogate and then at Knaresborough. At the time, his younger brother, Dennis Whiteley was aged 18 and with the Army Training Corps (ref.73). Some details as to how the wounded were evacuated from the Burmese jungle emerged later when a Flight-Sergeant H.W. Smith returned home to Harrogate on leave. He was second engineer on a Sunderland flying boat with the task of flying 300 miles from the Brahmaputra river over Japanese-held mountains to supply the Chindits and to bring out the wounded. To clear the mountains, the aircraft had to fly at 10,000 feet, often in very poor weather, in order to land on a lake where they could not remain for more than an hour because of their vulnerability to Japanese forces in the area. By the end of 1944, 300 men had been evacuated by this means (ref.82).

Fred Eshelby from Greengate Lane (Riversdale) was a Trooper who fought in North Africa, serving with an armoured unit. In 1943 he wrote a letter home in which he gave an account of Good Friday in Tunisia: 'Last night we harboured on the wooded slopes at the foot of a range of hills and got down to well-earned sleep, some in their vehicles, others in 'bivvies', and the less fortunate under the stars with a fir tree for a little protection from the wind.' Breakfast that day was a mug of hot tea, porridge and a slice of bread and butter, following which the chaplain held an open-air service lasting 10 minutes on the hillside, the men forming three sides of an open square. After the men dispersed, Trooper Eshelby was overjoyed to find a Geordie friend he thought had been killed (ref.61).

Prior to 1940, Flight Lieutenant H.R. Lonsdale, of Buckminster, Greengate Lane, worked at the Westminster Bank in both Harrogate and Knaresborough. He then spent several years in the Far East with the RAF, serving in Java and Sumatra before the Japanese occupations and, subsequently, in India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) (ref.19).

Private Geoffrey Cleasby of Park Avenue was a prisoner of war in Germany who was repatriated in 1943 because of his wounds. He returned to Britain in October 1943 on a ship which sailed from neutral Sweden, together with other ex-POWs. (ref.65). He was probably one of the four local men

repatriated in this way who were given a warm welcome home on their return to Knaresborough. The press reported that 'Kilted pipers of a Scottish regiment played them through a cheering throng to the Town Hall, where the ceremony took place and they were given places of honour at the gathering'. (ref.69). The regiment in question would have been the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers who were stationed at Scriven Hall at the time and who had acquired something of a following for their stirring pipe band. Afterwards, the men were given dinner at the Commercial Hotel, piped there again by the band. Geoffrey's mother was Edith Cleasby, secretary of the Knaresborough POW Club who worked to help both British servicemen in German POW camps and enemy prisoners held at Scriven POW camp. At Christmas 1943, Mrs Cleasby organised a bazaar at the Scriven WI hut to raise funds for the POW Club; the event raised £104 (ref. 68). A further event organised by Mrs Cleasby took place in the Knaresborough Parish Rooms in December 1944. Opened by the Mayoress of Harrogate and presided over by Major N.D. Cleasby, the event raised a further £61. Arnold Kellett's book 'Knaresborough' in the Images of England series shows a photograph taken after the war of some POWs returning to Scriven Hall to thank Mrs Cleasby for organising their Red Cross parcels. Major N.D. Cleasby was Commanding Officer of 'F' Company of the Harrogate Home Guard, which was the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Riding Home Guard (ref.66) and was presumably a relation although the electoral roll for Knaresborough in 1938 records Geoffrey and Edith Cleasby alone living at 4 Park Avenue.

Sapper Harold Stocks of the Royal Engineers came from Harrogate but lived at 18 Scriven Road with his wife. Just after New Year in 1945, he returned home on leave to see his wife, young son and, for the first time, his baby daughter, born the previous October. Before the war he had worked in the building trade with Messrs. C.A. Nettleton & Co. Of Harrogate. He had entered France on D Day and was, at that time, in Holland, in the Nijmegen/Eindhoven area. He spoke of the kindness of the liberated Dutch population, especially when the news came through of his daughter's birth, describing how the people in the house where he was billeted had made all kinds of little dresses to take home. His journey home had been exhausting but, once in Britain, a special train had been provided to transport the troops from their port into London, and special buses took them to the main-line station where carriages on the appropriate trains had been reserved (ref.83).

G.W. Holmes from Knaresborough was an Aircraftman in the RAF who played football for Scriven Park AFC. He was stationed in India in 1943 where he saw a poster of Harrogate Valley Gardens at an Indian railway station which prompted thoughts of home. He had thought the Harrogate Stray as hard for a football pitch but described the Indian pitches as 'more like red sand tennis courts' (ref.101).

James Henry Strothard was the only son of Mr W. Strothard of Scriven and was serving with the RAF when he married Ethel Mary Pilsworth of Harrogate in March 1941. The wedding took place at Christ Church in Harrogate (ref.47).

Corporal Alfred John Smith resided at 71 Boroughbridge Road and served with the Royal Corps of Signals, spending over four years overseas. (ref.93). He married Marjorie Clark of Beckwithshawe in June 1946.

Isobel Olive Jepson lived at 81 Boroughbridge Road. In 1942 she married Private Harold John Midson of Harrogate (ref.97).

George Wakefield was the son of Mr. And Mrs. Henry Wakefield of 7 Alexandra Place. He had been a journalist on the Harrogate Times and in 1946 was a member of the Hansard staff in the House of Commons. In July 1946 he married Winifred Waldon at Caxton Hall, Westminster. She came from Glossop and, prior to the war, had been a health visitor in Sheffield but for four years had served in the Mechanised Transport Corps (ref.94).

Wilfred Atkinson was the son of Mr and Mrs E. Atkinson of Old Scriven. He was assistant professional at Knaresborough Golf Club before the war before undertaking the same role at Fulford in York in 1935. During the war, he served in the army and upon being demobilised, was appointed professional at Middlesborough Golf Club (ref.93).

Scriven celebrated VE Day (8<sup>th</sup> May 1945) with a bonfire on the green, the local boys collecting anything which would burn. Mrs Waite at Oak View Farm and others offered to bake. A piano appeared, courtesy of the Atkinson family at Rose Cottage and it really became lively when a soldier joined in to play boogie-woogie(ref. 22).

Most returning servicemen received a quiet welcome home though one resident recalls 'I remember going down to New Scriven to join a crowd waiting for a serviceman returning from the Far East. There were few cars in those days and every car that came we thought it was him' (ref.22).

After the second war, Brigadier Brunskill was a familiar figure in the village with his eye patch and his military bearing. He was employed by the Slingsbys to look after the Scriven estate in their absence and he lived at Cherry Garth, a modern, brick house purpose built by the Slingsbys for their land agents. A career soldier, George Stephen Brunskill served throughout both world wars with distinction and retired from the army in 1945. His military career may be traced through the pages of the London Gazette (LG) and his other records, the principal points of interest being as follows:

- 18 January 1911: a Gentleman Cadet, he graduated from Sandhurst as a Second Lieutenant into the Indian Army (LG 17 January 1911)
- 1911-12 Served with 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt.
- 1912-August 1914 Served with the 47<sup>th</sup> Sikh regiment, Punjab,
- 18 April 1913: Promoted to Lieutenant (LG 3 June 1913).
- September-November 1914 Served with the 47<sup>th</sup> Sikhs in France
- 5 November 1914 Action leading to award of the Military Cross (MC) (Supplement to LG 18 February 1915).(see below for the details)
- November 1914 wounded; lost an eye (ref.27).
- May ? 1915 Broke a leg during the second battle of Ypres
- 1<sup>st</sup> September 1915 appointed as Captain, 47<sup>th</sup> Sikhs (LG 6 April 1917)
- 1917 Appointed as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General (DAAG) on the Lines of Communication of the XIV Corps in Italy
- 1920: transferred to British Army and the King's Shropshire Light Infantry
- 1920-24 Staff Captain in the Adjutant-General's Branch at the War Office (ref.27).
- August 1920: Decorated by the King of Italy with the Order of the Crown of Italy, Officer Class (supplement to the LG, 18 August 1920).
- March 1923: Decorated by the King of Italy with the Order of the Crown of Italy, Cavalier Class (LG 2 March 1923).

- 1924-26 Company Commander, Staff college, Camberley
- 1926-27 2<sup>nd</sup> i/c 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) in India
- 1931-37 Commanding Officer, KSLI, India
- 1937-41 Colonel i/c Administration, Palestine, during the Arab revolt.
- September 1939: Rendered distinguished service in connection with recent operations (supplement to LG 15 September 1939).
- 1941 Brigadier i/c Administration in Greece. Evacuated from Crete, April 1941 (ref.27).
- 1 April 1941: Became a Commander of the British Empire (CBE)(LG 1 April 1941).
- 1941-43 Brigadier i/c Administration of 1<sup>st</sup> Corps in UK (ref.27), establishing the Congo-Cairo supply route.
- April 1942: Awarded the Military Cross 1<sup>st</sup> Class by the King of Greece (Fourth Supplement to the LG 7 April 1942).
- May 1943-1945 Brigadier i/c Administration in Northern Ireland
- 19 June 1945 retires from the army and is granted the honorary rank of Brigadier (Supplement to the LG 19 June 1945).

The 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Sikh Regiment in France was part of the Jullunder Brigade in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lahore Division and suffered terrible casualties in the first months of the first world war. The average Indian battalion at the time had a strength of 764 men yet by November 1914, the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been reduced to 385 soldiers. This was when Brunskill won his Military Cross; General Sir James Willocks gives an account of events (ref.28):

On the 5th November a very gallant act was performed by Lieut. G. Brunskill of the 47th Sikhs in front of his trenches. Accompanied by one of his battalion scouts he traversed some 500 yards of " No Man's Land," until he found himself not thirty yards from the entrenched Germans. Making a detour he again crept forward, and finding the trench unoccupied, the two got over the parapet and inspected the interior ; they then packed up various articles of equipment and papers, made a note of the dug-outs and snipers' posts, and began their return journey. They were suddenly fired on, but got back safely with their valuable information.

Brunskill made two similar journeys, on the last occasion reaching to within thirty yards of the enemy's second line, where he was fired on, and this firing brought on a wild fusillade from friend and foe, through which he and his brave companion, Sepoy Tawand Singh, also of the 47th Sikhs, managed to return unscathed. These reconnaissances discovered the line of advance of German supplies and gave other useful information, which enabled us to devote particular attention to the points noted.

For his gallant work Brunskill was awarded the Military Cross. Two days later he was severely wounded whilst performing another daring deed during daylight. One very

important fact disclosed, and which stood us in good stead thereafter, was that the enemy at that time used few or no patrols and left his front line practically unoccupied. Thus the brave pay for their daring, and the men behind reap the benefits.

The severe wounding referred to in the General's account was presumably the occasion on which Lieutenant Brunskill lost an eye. When he returned to his regiment in April 1915 after a period of convalescence, the 47<sup>th</sup> Sikhs assaulted the German trenches during the second battle of Ypres which saw the first successful use of chemical gas in warfare. 78% of the Battalion were killed during the attack (ref.29) and this seems to be the action when Lieut. Brunskill escaped with merely a broken leg.

This was the Brigadier G S Brunskill, CBE MC who came to reside in Scriven.

Not every war service was in a military capacity. During the course of the war there always seemed to be a fundraising event for the war effort. Money was raised for 'Warship Week' (Knaresborough adopted HMS Wallflower), 'Spitfire Week', 'Hospital Sunday', for the Red Cross, Prisoners of War, Merchant Seamen, the Malta Relief Fund, for Stalingrad, for new tanks and for Toc H amongst others. Bodies such as the Home Guard, the National Fire Service and the ARP also organised their own fund-raising events. The schemes for war savings were enthusiastically embraced in Knaresborough and the town held the record for Yorkshire with a figure of £106 per head of population for the four year period ending in November 1943. This continued a tradition because Knaresborough had also raised a record of £41 12s 10d per head during Warship Week in April 1942 and had set the county record for 'Wings For Victory Week' by raising £48 4s 7d per head, an impressive total of £387,190 (ref.72).

Nidderdale Rural District, which included Old Scriven, adopted HMS Turcoman during 'Warship Week'. She was a minesweeping trawler whose First Officer, Lieut. G. Rudd happened to come from Harrogate. Lieut. Rudd took a photograph of his ship which was published in a local newspaper after the war (ref.104).

Arthur Atkinson, the estate stonemason and caretaker to the hall, served with the ARP during the second world war as a stretcher bearer. He was given a badge with the initials 'SB' which, he told his daughters, stood for 'Silly Beggar' (ref. 21). Other residents, including farmer Fred Clapham, John Newbould and Charles Thomas (Tom) served in the Home Guard, the local unit being the 6<sup>th</sup> West Riding Battalion, Home Guard. Some of their training took place in the wooden huts which one stood between Scriven and Lingerfield. (ref.159).

Winifred Jacob Smith, who lived at 'Somerley' on Boroughbridge Road, organised the labour of the many Land Girls who worked on the country's farms, thereby releasing male farmworkers for military service. (ref.22). An appeal was made through the press in May 1940 when the demand for Women Land Workers began to exceed supply and volunteers were invited to contact Miss Jacob

Smith (ref.44) who was county secretary to the Yorkshire Land Army whose HQ was in Harrogate (ref.98). At the end of the war in Europe, local members of the Women's Land Army were given special awards at a ceremony held at the Queen's Hotel in Leeds. At this gathering, I. Taylor received a Five-year Proficiency Award; she had worked at Butterhills Farm (ref.89).

Miss Janet Simpson was a local volunteer in the Land Army. She also lived on Boroughbridge Road and, in February 1944, she received an armlet in recognition of four years good service, the first girl to receive this award in Knaresborough. At the time, she was working in a local market garden (ref.102).

Les Allen, like his father, was an estate joiner in Scriven. When he married his wife Eve in August 1939, they moved to a house in Blind Lane, Knaresborough where they lived for 50 years. During the war, Les was one of a team who moved to Portsmouth to build the giant floating sections of the Mulberry harbours which were later floated across the Channel to Normandy after D-Day (ref.30).

Kenneth Thorpe had, prior to the war, been employed as a printer by Messrs. Parr's Ltd. and played football for the Grammar School Old Boys, Scriven Park and Knaresborough Town teams in addition to playing cricket for the Conservative Club and singing in the church choir. He had married Marjorie Lawton of Harrogate and their son had been born in 1938. They lived on Aspin Avenue in Knaresborough. Kenneth Thorpe had joined the local territorial company on its formation in the summer of 1939 and had been mobilised on the outbreak of war in September. He served in the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Riding Regiment and had been part of the British Expeditionary Force evacuated from Dunkirk. On his return to Britain, he volunteered for service as an anti-aircraft gunner with coastal convoys and it was in the course of this duty that he was killed on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1940, aged 33. He is commemorated on the Knaresborough War Memorial and on the Brookwood Memorial in Surrey which bears the names of 3500 men and women of the Commonwealth land services who have no known grave (ref.151).

Misses H. And K. Alton were the daughters of Councillor Ernest and Mrs Alton who lived at Scriven Lodge on Scriven Road. At Christmas 1943 the two girls made toys which they sold to raise funds for the Red Cross Agricultural Fund; on that occasion the toys raised £26 (ref.67). County Councillor Ernest Alton helped organise the labour required to bring in the harvest on the Knaresborough farms (ref.90).

At the start of the war, pupils from the Leeds School of Art were evacuated to Knaresborough and some of the art students had their lessons in rooms in the Park Grove Methodist Church. Accommodation for two teachers was found in Scriven Road, as remembered by a child at the time: 'Being an only child, I was so disappointed when a 'grown-up' was billeted on us. The other teacher practically lived in our house as well. It's funny how things turn out though. Years later I, too, went to the Leeds Art School where one of my senior lecturers was- our evacuee!' (ref.22).

Evacuees also found themselves in the old village. Enid Hornsby remembers some coming from Hull. Her relatively small home of Ivy Cottage also accommodated a Mrs Bunn from Hull with her three children, the youngest just being a toddler. Sharing in a confined space was not easy, and Mrs Bunn is remembered as being quite fussy, insisting on doing all her own cooking. She stayed at Ivy Cottage for about 18 months. Elsewhere in the village were other evacuee children too and the Atkinson family would also take in the wives and children of soldiers who were in the camp. (ref.62).

In 1944, as London and the south were being threatened by V1 and V2 weapons, a fresh influx of evacuees headed north, although the overall numbers seem to have been less than expected. A party of 100 children was due to arrive in Knaresborough on 8 July 1944 and W.V.S. members had arranged accommodation for them in private houses in the area (ref.74). In addition to these evacuees, 1000 civil servants were moved to Harrogate for the same reason, 150 of whom were accommodated in Knaresborough (ref.80). It is not known if any of this accommodation was in Scriven but the nearby sanatorium at Scotton Banks accommodated children from southern hospitals who were in the danger zone from the new German weapon (ref.79). In particular, children arrived from Queen Mary's Hospital for Children in Carshalton which was apparently the most bombed hospital in London. In July 1944, Queen Mary's was finally evacuated and the patients divided between Scotton Banks and Dryburn Emergency Hospital in Durham (ref. 91).

After the war ended in Europe, the evacuees began to return home. The first 'evacuees special' train for London left Harrogate station on 7 June 1945, filled with evacuees who had been billeted in Harrogate, Knaresborough, Pateley Bridge and Ripon (ref.88). 35 of these 152 evacuees returning home had been living in Knaresborough and most of them seemed to think highly of the welcome they had received in the area. Another correspondent calculated the number of returning evacuees on this occasion as 157 and describes children waiting on the platform at Harrogate station clutching favourite toys and, in one case, a kitten. There had been insufficient time to arrange a farewell party for the evacuees, many of whom had been in Yorkshire for four years; instead, each mother received a 10s book of savings stamps and each child a 5s book (ref.103).

On the first anniversary of 'V Day', Knaresborough anticipated a fly past of the new Meteor jet aircraft from RAF Church Fenton and was disappointed when this was cancelled because of bad weather (ref.96).

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