

WAR MEMORIALS in the SOUTH AINSTY

(Detailed information is available for the names in *italics*)

BOLTON PERCY MEMORIAL

Location: Monument in All Saints churchyard

Plaque in All Saints church

WW1

Fountain, Alfred

Daniel, James William Gordon

Wilson, R

Atkinson, T

Abbey, F

Barff, Robert

Long, J

Banks, J

Blacker, J

Fountain, John William

Atkinson, J E

Dickenson, A

Jewitt, Joseph

WW2

Horner, Richard

Nicholas, John

Warriner, John Thomas

APPLETON ROEBUCK MEMORIAL

Location: Opposite primary school

WW1

Joseph Barnes – 18th Hussars

Henry Yates Cundall – R.C.A.

Harry Lorriman – K.O.Y.L.I.

WW2

William C H Dunnington – Gunner R.A.

John Richard Horner – 5th West Yorks Regt.

Patrick John Watkins – R.A.F. Regt.

ACASTER MALBIS

Location: Plaque in Acaster Malbis Memorial Institute

Plaque and memorials in Holy Trinity church

WW1

Lt J E Cundall

C W Forth

Rev E R Gibbs

A Hudson

J A Smith

G Wilkinson

(The above were killed in action; the rest are men who served)

H Appleton

M Appleton

Rev A S Crawley

J H Fairburn

G Fendley

F Forth

JAS Fowler

JOS Fowler

B Hudson

F Lancaster

S Mountain

J D Pank

J R Penty

J A Poad

A Richardson

W Richardson

J Rushworth

E Smith

F T Smith

R A Swales

A Turner

L Turner

E H Tyler

F W Tyler

J Walker

A Wood

G Wood

W Wragg

A C Hudson

Separate memorial in Holy Trinity to *Lancelot Raimes*

WW2

T Atkinson – Plaque on south wall of chancel in Holy Trinity

ACASTER SELBY

Location: St John's churchyard

WW1

Fred Gavigan

COLTON MEMORIAL

Location: St Paul's churchyard

WW1

T E Lawson-Smith – Lieut 13th Hussars – Oct 30 1914

J Lawson-Smith – Lieut W Yorks – Oct 20 1914

Joseph Mason – Driver RFA – July 1 1916

William Barter – Gunner RGA – July 24 1916

Arthur Waite Smith – Gunner RFA – April 14 1917

Percy Blakey – Private W Yorks – March 26 1918

Arthur Irvin Gilman – Private 10 Manchester Regt – March 21 1918

COPMANTHORPE

Location: Village green, opposite St Giles' church

Plaque in St Giles' church

WW1

Alfred Anderson

Alfred Beedham

Geo. Hy. Briggs

Richard Brown

Jos. E Germain

Frank Hardwick

Ivan Victor Reed

Thomas Spence

Arthur Walter, Lt.

Charles Wilding

WW2

Eric Swift Barker

Reginald Carter

Willis Collier

Robin King

Harold Stanley Jarratt

Alfred May

John Herbert Rodgers
Reginald Basil Wright

Memorials and Graves

The last resting place for the men recorded on the various memorials around the villages varies, from those who died of their wounds in hospitals in the UK, which meant they could be buried in their local graveyard, to those who died on the battlefield and are buried in British Military Cemeteries across the world, to those whose bodies were never recovered and are recorded only on monuments such as the Menin Gate,



Thiepval Monument

where there are more than 54,000 names, and Thiepval (72,000 names). Those lost in naval battles were generally buried at sea and are recorded on monuments in Britain's major naval ports.

A strict policy of 'non-repatriation' of service personnel who died abroad was implemented very soon after the start of World War One, so any such graves in this country will be of individuals who died in the United Kingdom.

A similarly strict rule required all headstones of military graves overseas to be of uniform style, so that those they commemorate would be seen as equal in death. During the war, many men were buried in battlefield graves close to where they fell, but after the war many of the bodies were reburied in larger cemeteries laid out by the newly formed Commonwealth War Graves Commission. (More information about the Commission and its history can be found here: [Our Story: History of the Commission | CWGC](#))

Our research into the names of the individuals has revealed a wide range of examples, from those with no known grave, including a man lost at sea, to those buried in cemeteries as far away as Baghdad, to those buried in their local church graveyard.

Researching these individuals takes a lot of time, but as part of our War in the South Ainsty exhibition and work for the Copmanthorpe history book, we have managed to find out a little about some of these men, using both military records and Census data.

Below are details of some of these men.

BOLTON PERCY MEMORIAL

JAMES DANIEL, 27

James Daniel has no grave because he was lost at sea. He died on 6th September 1915, and the cause of his death was recorded as accidental drowning.

James William Gordon Daniel was born in 1889 in Bolton Percy, the son of Annie Daniel. In 1901, aged 12, he was living with Thomas and Emma Beate, his grandparents, in a house on Village Street, Bolton Percy (addresses in England were not systematically referenced by numbers until after the First World War). Thomas Beate was born in Bishop Wilton, and was an agricultural labourer. He was aged 53 in 1901, and his wife Emma 49; she was born in Bolton Percy.

James was a Private with the Royal Marine Light Infantry when he was lost. He was serving on HMS M20, a Royal Navy monitor which was launched in July 1915, and spent all its service life in the Mediterranean. He was one of a crew of 69, which is small for a warship. Monitors were vessels which mounted just one or two large-calibre guns. Their purpose was to bombard shore targets, and M20 was probably used at Gallipoli, to engage Turkish batteries on the peninsula, in support of the Anglo-French landings in the Dardanelles Campaign. This smaller monitor had just one 9.2" gun, and James would have been a member of the gun crew: it was the practice in the Royal Navy to man one of the turrets in larger ships, carrying heavier guns, with Marines, who would have specialist expertise in gunnery, but little seamanship skill.

It is not known how James drowned, but it is possible that he was washed overboard in a storm, as HMS M20 was designed for inshore work rather than the open seas, and would have had limited freeboard, with the deck quite close to the water. His body was not recovered, and he is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. This is one of three identical monuments erected at each of the three main naval ports by their entrances, designed to serve as a leading mark for shipping. The Plymouth Memorial bears the names of 7251 sailors from World War 1, and 15,933 from World War 2, who have no graves.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission record states that James was the son of the late Annie Daniel of Bolton Percy. Annie cannot be traced through accessible records, and it is not known when she died. James' grandparents, Thomas and Emma, do not appear in the 1911 Census returns, so it is possible that when he died, James had no living relatives.

The CWGC record notes that James had been awarded the Medal of the Order of St. Stanislas. This was an honour bestowed by the Russian Czar, and it is not known how James came by it. There was British naval assistance to Russia before the Revolution, involving submarines in the Baltic, and some RN commanders were given Russian decorations, but as a Marine, James would not have been involved in the campaign.

COLTON MEMORIAL

In the First World War it was not uncommon for men of the same family to serve in the military at the same time, sometimes in the same unit. The Colton memorial commemorates two brothers who died within 10 days of each other in Flanders, in the first months of the War.

JOHN LAWSON-SMITH, 22

John Lawson-Smith was the youngest son of Edward Maule Lawson-Smith and his wife Ethel Mary, who was the daughter of an Army General, Sir William Davies. He was born in Colton on 24th March 1892, and lived in Colton Lodge, until being sent away to preparatory school in Hampshire.

John followed his brother Thomas to Foster's School, Stubbington, a school noted for its association with the naval and military academies. He did not follow Thomas to Harrow, but instead went to the Royal Naval College, Osborne, where he was a cadet from 1902 to 1903, and then to Repton School.



He passed out from Sandhurst Military College and was gazetted a 2nd Lieut. in the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales' Own West Yorkshire Regiment, on 3rd September, 1913. The West Yorkshires were a light infantry regiment. John was promoted to Lieutenant in October 1914, and would have had command of a company of soldiers.

The 1st Bn. landed at St Nazaire in France on 10th September 1914, as part of the British Army's 6th Division. It was soon engaged in 'the Race to the Sea', an urgent drive to stop the invading Germans from

reaching the coast and its seaports, and became involved in the Battle of Armentieres. John was killed on 20th October, either in the heavy German bombardment of the British positions, or in the subsequent assault. His body was never found, and he is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial in France, along with 13,400 other British soldiers who were killed in the sector between October 1914 and September 1915, and have no known grave. Along with his brother Thomas, he is also remembered on the monument in Amble in Northumberland, on what was his father's land, and on the memorials in Colton churchyard.

John was 'Mentioned in Dispatches', for he was commended in General Sir John French's formal report to the War Office of 20th November 1914 (published in The London Gazette of 17th February 1915), for "gallant and distinguished service in the field".

1912 former pupils of Repton School served in the First World War; 355 of them died.

THOMAS LAWSON-SMITH, 25

Thomas Edward Lawson-Smith was born in Colton, on 14th March, 1889. He was the eldest son of Edward Maule Lawson-Smith, BA, JP, of Colton Lodge, a land-owner and coal-owner, who had connections with Amble in Northumberland. His mother was Ethel Mary Lawson-Smith, who was the daughter of a General, the late Sir William Davies.

Possibly inspired by his grandfather, Thomas became a career soldier. Like his younger brother John, he was sent to Foster's, a preparatory school in Hampshire which specialised in readying boys for officer training for the Army and Navy. It accommodated about 130 boys, who wore Eton jackets, waistcoats, striped trousers (short or long, depending on age) ... and bowler hats when attending church in winter.



From Foster's, Thomas went to Harrow School, and then to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieut. in the 13th Hussars on 15th September 1909, and promoted to full Lieutenant on 6th December 1913. The 13th Hussars were sent to India in August 1914, but Thomas went to France in September, attached to the 11th Hussars (noted for their scarlet breeches, and called 'The Cherry-Pickers'). The 11th, like the 13th, was a cavalry regiment, and had taken

part in the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War. In France initially it performed the traditional role of cavalry, on horseback, but

then became involved in the 'Race to the Sea', when the British and French struggled to prevent the invading German armies from reaching the coast and the Channel ports. The 11th Hussars helped stop the advance of three German cavalry divisions before Ypres, but were then ordered to Messines to fight as infantry in improvised trenches. Greatly outnumbered, they suffered heavy casualties in fighting which reached a climax between 30th October and 1st November. Thomas was killed during this time. His body was never recovered, and he is commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial to the missing in Ypres, on a memorial in Amble (built on land given by Thomas' father), and on the memorial in Colton churchyard.

Thomas may have known that his brother John had been killed 10 days earlier. The Army made great efforts to maintain good communications between Home and the Front, although at this early, chaotic stage of the War it must have been difficult. Their father (then aged 54) had been widowed in 1906, but was still living in Colton Lodge, alone except for four female servants (two housemaids, a cook, and a scullery maid). He died in York in 1942, aged 83.

ACASTER SELBY CHURCHYARD

FRED GAVIGAN, 21

Fred Gavigan was one of 11 children and belonged to a close and loving family, who put up the impressive memorial to him in the small hamlet's peaceful churchyard. The inscription reads 'IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF FRED GAVIGAN, R. FUSILIERS, AND ALL HIS COMRADES WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918. O LAMB OF GOD ALL PITYING BLEST, GRANT THEM THINE ETERNAL REST'

His grave nearby is inscribed 'In Loving Memory of Pte. Fred Gavigan, 7th Royal Fusiliers, dearly beloved son of James & Mary Emma Gavigan, who died from wounds 14th October 1918, aged 21 years. Greater love hath no man than this, to lay down his life for his friends.'

On 14th October 1919, *The Yorkshire Herald* published the following In Memoriam notice: 'Gavigan - In loving remembrance of a dear son and brother, Pte. Fred Gavigan, 7th Royal Fusiliers, who was wounded in action on 2nd October and died in the 2nd General London Hospital, October 14th, 1918 ... A loving son and brother kind, A beautiful memory left behind. Sadly missed by his loving Father, Mother, Brother and Sisters, also by his little nieces Mary and Dorothy.'

Fred was the son of James and Mary E Gavigan. At the time of the 1911 Census, James, a farmer, was 59, and his wife 53; they had been married for 32 years, and had given birth to 11 children, one of whom had died. Living with them then at River Farm in Acaster Selby were their sons Martin (17, and working on the farm), Fred (13), and Septimus (11), at school, and Edith Starr (16), the family's domestic servant. Fred's sisters Maria and Eva and his brother James, listed in the 1901 Census, had presumably left home by then. The 1891 Census had included other sisters, Kate and Minnie. Kate would have been 28 in 1911, and so probably living with her own family, but Minnie (whose age was given as "0" in 1891) must have been the child who died. The places of birth of the children, recorded in each census, track the family's movements over time, from Thirsk, where some of the older children were born, to Elvington, where the next two were born, to Acaster, the place of birth of Fred and Septimus. Unusually, their mother was born in Knightsbridge, London; their father in York.

Fred joined the 7th Royal Fusiliers, an infantry regiment, probably in June in 1916. His Battalion was mobilised on 24th July and landed at Le Havre, before moving to the Western Front and remaining there for the rest of the War. As part of the 63rd Division, it was involved in what was known as the Advance to Victory, when the Allies forced back the German armies. As an infantryman Fred would have fought in the front line. It is likely that he was wounded in the Battles of the Hindenberg Line, 12th September to 9th October 1918. He would have been sent by ambulance train directly to the military hospital in Chelsea, which was one of over 300 established in London after the War began. It is because he died there and not overseas that his parents were able to bring him back for burial at home. They lie beside him: James died in 1927, aged 75, and Mary in 1946, aged 88. Their inscription reads 'Reunited'.



ACASTER MALBIS CHURCH AND MEMORIAL HALL

Amongst those remembered in Holy Trinity church, Acaster Malbis are two clergymen: Lancelot Raimes and Edward Gibbs, parish clergymen who volunteered to serve and who died in France in World War 1. The clergy were exempt from conscription but many volunteered, most to be Army chaplains (like Edward), but some (like Lancelot) to fight as soldiers. Some 179 Army chaplains died during the First World War.

EDWARD GIBBS, 32

Edward Reginald Gibbs was 32 when he was killed in France on 29th March 1918. He was a Chaplain, 4th Class (chaplains are the only British Army officers who do not carry standard officer ranks, but their grades do relate to ranks: 4th Class equates to Captain). He was attached to the 1st Battalion of the Grenadier Guards, one of the oldest and most prestigious units in the British Army.

Edward was the son of the Rev William C and Mrs Gibbs, of Temple Hill, East Budleigh, Devon. The 1911 Census records that William Cobham Gibbs was then 65, and his wife Annie Catherine was 64, and that they had had six children, all of them still living. Only Edward's sister, Mary Katharina Rynder Gibbs, 26, was living at home at the time of that Census. That the family was affluent is indicated by the servants they employed: Ethel Eldridge (19), Ethel Stoneman (26), and Lillian Potter (15) as domestic staff, and Fred Gibbings (28) as coachman.



As the clergy were an exempt occupation, Edward would not have been conscripted. He volunteered to join the Army Chaplains' Department, leaving his position as curate-in-charge of Acaster and Bishopthorpe, and chaplain to Cosmo Gordon Lang, the Archbishop of York. He had arrived in 1913, and became curate-in-charge when the previous office holder, the Rev Stafford Crawley, left to become an Army chaplain in Flanders, where he won the MC for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire. The informative and well-illustrated history of Acaster, *Of Malet, Malbis and Fairfax*, recalls Edward riding a motor-cycle and side-car around his parish (at least once with the Archbishop's mother as passenger), and describes his popularity and the deep affection in which he was held by his

parishioners. A photograph of Edward in the book portrays a thoughtful, sensitive-looking young man wearing a high dog-collar.

On Friday, 15th April 1918, The Yorkshire Evening News carried this report: *"The Reverend Edward Reginald Gibbs, MA, domestic chaplain to the Archbishop of York before he went to France as chaplain to the Grenadier Guards, was killed on Friday last. He was returning from conducting the funeral of a soldier, when a shell burst close by. The son of a Devonshire clergyman, who died only 3 weeks ago, he was also a cousin of Mrs Foxley Norris, wife of the Dean of York, and of Mrs A S Crawley, of Bishopthorpe. He had a brother killed in the early days of the War, and 3 other brothers are serving."*

Edward's predecessor at Bishopthorpe, Arthur Stafford Crawley, survived the war (and eventually became chaplain to the king).

LANCELOT RAIMES, 29

Lancelot Raimes was born on 2nd April 1887, in Stockton-on-Tees, and died on 1st June 1916, from wounds sustained whilst serving as a captain in the Durham Light Infantry. He lies in the CWGC Ballieul Communal Cemetery in France, near the Belgian border.

Lancelot was the son of Frederick and Maria Raimes. He went to The Leys school at 13 and became a house prefect and a cadet sergeant, and gained First Colours at football. At Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, he read Medieval and Modern Languages, and won the Winchester Reading Prize. In 1910 he joined Ripon Diocesan College.

Lancelot appears in the 1911 Census. At the time he was 24, single, and living with his parents in Hartburn Lodge, Stockton. His occupation was given as 'Theological Student, Established Church'. His father, Frederick, then 60, was born in Acaster Malbis. Frederick had bought Hartburn Lodge in 1902, having made his fortune by marketing Globe Metal Polish, as the company's sole British agent; he died, at Acaster, on 23rd February 1913. His wife Maria, 58, was recorded as having four living children and two who were deceased. Also at home on the night of the census was Lancelot's brother Aubyn Leslie, who was 25, single, and a director of a company producing chemicals and drugs. Lancelot's two sisters, Elsie Marina and Marjorie, were married and resident elsewhere. Listed in the census entry were four



domestic servants (a cook, a parlour maid, and two house maids).

After ordination, Lancelot was appointed to a curacy in Chipping Barnett. He volunteered to serve in the Army as a field officer on the outbreak of the War. He joined the 5th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, and on 16th April 1915 marched with them to Newcastle Station and took a train which left at 1.30pm and arrived at Folkestone at 1.00am. The Battalion sailed for France, disembarking at Boulogne shortly before dawn on 18th April 1915. It was billeted in farmhouses in Steenvoorde for five days, then moved up to the Front Line near Ypres on 23rd April. It suffered its first casualties on 24th April, in savage fighting following the Germans' first use of poison gas, and which included the battles of Gravenstafel, St Julien, Frezenberg, and Bellewaarde, which together comprised the Second Battle of Ypres.

Lancelot's death was reported in *The Daily Gazette* for Middlesborough on 3rd June 1916, and in *The Yorkshire Post*. He is commemorated in The Book of Remembrance in St Thomas' Church, Stockton High Street, as well as on a plaque in Holy Trinity church, Acaster Malbis.

The inscription on his gravestone reads GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME A SINNER, and was added by his cousin, Major A L Raimes, who wrote the history of the Durham Light Infantry's 5th Battalion, in which Lancelot served.

J E CUNDALL, 36

John Ernest Cundall was killed in France at the age of 36, on 3rd May 1917, while serving with the 5th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

John was the son of William and Mary Annie Cundall, of 5 Mount Pleasant, Acaster Malbis. William (64 at the time of the Census of 1901) was a farmer, who died sometime before 1911, for that year's Census records Mary (by then aged 61), as being a widow, and a farmer. John Ernest (then 30) was working on the farm, along with William Marshall Cundall (32), his brother. The brothers lived with their mother and their sisters, Norah Grace (23) and Annie Kathleen (28), who were not employed. All the family, including the elder William, had been born in Acaster Malbis. In 1901, another daughter, Mary (then 24), was living with the family, but presumably left to marry. Two employees lived at the same address: Walter Bradley, aged 19 and single, was a waggoner, born in Ramsgill, Nidderdale, east of Ripon. Prosperous enough to have a domestic servant, the family also employed Lillian Vaux, who was single and 20, and more local, having been born in Dunnington.

John married Anne Elizabeth Read, of Cedar House, Church Cobham, Surrey in 1916. John had enlisted with the Honourable Artillery Company in 1914. This is the oldest unit in the British Army, and the second oldest military organisation in the world (founded by Henry VIII in 1537). He was one of the many thousands of men who volunteered to serve, long before conscription was introduced in 1916, which indicates some patriotic feelings.

John was a Second Lieutenant in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry when he died. This must mean that he enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company as a private soldier: Second Lieutenant is the lowest commissioned rank, and if John had joined as an officer, by 1917 he would have been promoted, perhaps to Captain. The high casualty rates during the Great War resulted in many men being commissioned from the ranks, and this usually meant that the new officer was assigned to another regiment.

Seven other members of his regiment who died on 3rd May 1917 are buried with John in the Henin Communal Cemetery Extension, 8km south-east of Arras. They would have been killed in the Second Battle of Arras (9th April to 16th May 1917), when British, Canadian, New Zealand, Australian and Newfoundland troops attacked well-established German defences. The assault took place to coincide with the French Army's Nivelle Offensive, which was intended to end the War in 48 hours. However, while there were significant Allied advances, there was no breakthrough, but a relatively large number of casualties, and the War continued for another eighteen months.

C W FORTH, 25

The 'C W Forth' named on the Acaster memorial proved very hard to trace, for two reasons. Firstly, he is recorded as C W Forth on the church plaque, but G W Forth on the plaque in the hall. A search of the records did not reveal any suitable candidates under G W Forth, and the only entry listed for a C W Forth was for a Canadian soldier. However, detailed research by Ken Haywood has now established the Canadian soldier is the correct individual.

Trans-Atlantic shipping lists show that a passenger named C W Forth travelled to Canada before the outbreak of the First World War. The Canadian national archives record that a Charles William Forth volunteered for military service on 1st January 1916. Charles gave his date of birth as 2nd April 1891, and the place as York. He named his father, Thomas Forth of Acaster Malbis, as his next of kin. He registered

his own residence as Glenside, Saskatchewan, a small village in the Canadian wheat-lands, and his occupation as farmer. His enlistment document records that he had a fair complexion, blue eyes, and light brown hair, and was just short of 5' 10" tall. He was unmarried.

Charles joined the 46th (South Saskatchewan) Battalion of the Canadian Army. This new infantry unit was authorised in November 1914 to become part of the Expeditionary Force sent to the Western Front, where Canadian troops were generally recognised as being the most effective troops on either side. The 46th Bn came to be known as 'The Suicide Battalion', because of its high rate of loss: 1436 killed and 3484 wounded in 27 months at the Front (a casualty rate of 91.5%).

Private 781741 C W Forth of the 46th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, died on 22nd February 1917, and is buried at the Barlin Communal Cemetery, near Bethune, France.

The date of Charles Forth's death does not fall within the period of any particular battle. The War Diary of the 46th Bn reveals that the battalion's troops had been in occupation of the trenches of the front line near Coupigny in France since 17th February 1917, and were due to be relieved on 23rd February. The entry for 22nd February reads 'At 5.30pm, in consequence of a show put on by 30th Bn., the Hun retaliated on our front with H.E.s, minnies, shrapnel, whizbangs, and fishtails'. Artillery fire, in all its forms, from mortars to howitzers, was the major cause of death in the front lines. The Diary entry reports that one soldier was killed instantly, a sergeant was wounded by shrapnel, and that Private Forth died from the wounds he sustained during the bombardment.

His headstone bears the inscription 'Gone, but not forgotten'.

A HUDSON, 23

The A Hudson recorded on the memorial is George Ambrose Hudson, son of John and Ann Hudson (nee Longbottom) of Acaster Lane, Bishopthorpe. Ambrose was born in Acaster Malbis in 1895 and the family are resident in the village in both the 1901 and 1911 Census returns. His elder brother, Benjamin (born 1893), is listed as a combatant. Their father came from Hillam, near Pontefract, and married Ann in Pontefract in 1884.

Ambrose was in a Supply Company of the Army Service Corps – a logistics rather than a combat unit. He died, aged 23, on 15th September 1918 in Mesopotamia and is buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery. At the time of his death there was only limited activity in the

Mesopotamia Campaign, which suggests he may have died of illness rather than in combat. British troops stationed in Mesopotamia suffered much higher losses from illness than from fighting.

J A SMITH, 28

John Arthur Smith, known as 'Jack', was the second son of Tom Smith of Acaster. Jack died on 31st July 1917 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres, which means that his body was never found or identified and he has no known grave.



Jack Smith was 28 when he was killed in action in Flanders, serving with the 2nd Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales' Own), having joined the Army in June 1916, possibly as a result of the extension of conscription to married men in May. He left a wife, Hannah, and two children, living in Bishopthorpe.

Jack was born in Acaster, and his mother must have died before he was 11, because the 1901 Census records his father Tom (then 42), as being a widower, and a market gardener and grocer. The family included Jack's sister Edith (19) and brother Ernest (7), and their 81-year-old maternal grandmother, Margaret Goodall. Boarding with the family, in their four rooms at 25 Hallcroft Hall Lane, was Harry Atkin, a 38-year-old labourer.

In 1911, the Census describes Jack Smith as a salmon fisherman, and his father Tom as a 'late salmon fisher'. Ernest, now 17, is recorded as being a farm service horseman. His sister Edith remains with the family, and seems likely to have been the mother of a new member, 5-year-old Cyril Stanley Smith, entered on the Census form as 'grandchild'. Also listed in the home at that time is Francis Turton Smith; both Francis and Ernest survived their military service. Francis Turton Smith was the father of Harold and Geoff Smith.

John Arthur Smith was killed on 31st July 1917. This was the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele, the Third Battle of Ypres. Fighting around Ypres was intense throughout the Great War, but Passchendaele was one of the bloodiest battles, with 244,897 British soldiers killed or wounded. The Menin Gate bears the names of 54,896 men killed in the War in Flanders up until 17th August 1917 who have no known grave; a further

34,984 who died after that date and were never found or identified are remembered on a memorial at Tyne Cot Cemetery.

G WILKINSON, 27

George Wilkinson served as a sapper in the Royal Engineers, attached to the 118th Railway Company. He died on 21st July 1916, aged 27.

George was the son of Miles Sherwood Wilkinson and Elizabeth Wilkinson, of 2 Bridge Cottages, Acaster Malbis. The 1911 Census reveals that the couple had had eight children, six of whom were still living in 1911. Ten years earlier, at the time of the previous Census, Miles was 42 and Elizabeth 36, and had George (12), Gertrude (7), and Rebecca (4) living with them. The fact that George was born in Monk Fryston, Gertrude in Dringhouses, and Rebecca in Acaster, indicates that Miles' job with the North Eastern Railway company required fairly frequent moves. In 1911 the family was living at Bridge Cottages, Acaster Lane, which were railway-owned cottages, and Miles was working as a stationary engineman, presumably at Naburn Bridge. By then the family included Grace Elizabeth (9), Emily (6), and Edith Eleanor (5). Gertrude and Rebecca were not listed on the Census form, which suggests that they may have left home, probably to work as domestic servants in York or elsewhere in the local area. George, now 22, was boarding at 37 Garfield Terrace, near Leeman Road in York, and working as a plate-layer for the railway company.

It is not known when George joined the Army, but it is likely that he volunteered, as most railway employment rendered workers exempt from conscription. Once in the Army, George's assignment to the Royal Engineers' 118th Railway Coy was probably determined by his civilian occupation. His military employment is unlikely to have taken him to the front line, though he might still have been exposed to long-range shelling. However, his burial in a civilian cemetery in Calais might suggest a death from illness, or industrial injury, rather than war-wounds. There were four British hospitals, with 2500 beds, in the town, and there are 721 Great War military burials in Calais Southern Cemetery.

THOMAS ATKINSON, 23

Thomas Atkinson, who is commemorated on a brass plaque in Holy Trinity church, Acaster Malbis, is the only casualty of the Second World War recorded in Acaster. Thomas, who was aged 23, died in France in August 1944, and is buried in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Tilly-sur-Seulles, Calvados, near Caen in Normandy. His gravestone bears the inscription 'Thy Will Be Done'.

The cemetery contains 1143 graves of men who were killed during the liberation of Europe. There was heavy fighting nearby following the D-Day Invasion on 6th June 1944. Tilly was captured by Allied troops on 18th June, but fighting in the area continued for some time afterwards.

Thomas William Atkinson was an artilleryman: he was Gunner 14264800 of 179 Field Regiment of the Royal Field Artillery. The regiment was formed in March 1942, trained and prepared for war in Essex, and sailed for Normandy in the SS Sam Houston on 17th June 1944, arriving off Arromanches on 19th June. It was first in action against the German forces occupying France at 0200hrs on 26th June.

The role of the 179 Field Regiment RFA was to provide shell-fire to support the infantry soldiers attacking the German defences. Its gunners would be well within range of enemy fire, and would inevitably suffer a high rate of casualties. On 10th July the Regiment was involved in the pivotal assault on 'Hill 112', where (a Regimental record states) 'the guns never stopped firing and in one 15 minute period the Regiment fired 1800 rounds, in support of the Somerset Light Infantry'. On 16th August, the Germans began to retreat, and the record continues 'The chase began, and the Regiment reached the River Seine ...', but Thomas Atkinson did not go with it; he died on that day.

Gunner Atkinson was 'the son of Charles Sydney and M A E Atkinson of Acaster Malbis', and the Civil Registration Marriage Index records that Charles S Atkinson married Martha A E Eales in the Spring of 1920. To have married then, Charles is likely to have been born sometime between 1885 and 1899, and a Charles S Atkinson, aged 4, appears in the 1901 Census. He was born, in Naburn, to Thomas and Elizabeth Atkinson. Thomas, aged 42 at the time of the census, was a farmer, and living with Elizabeth and five children in Naburn Lodge. He was wealthy enough to employ three domestic servants.

The inscription on Thomas William Atkinson's gravestone would have been chosen by his parents, Charles and Martha. Its wording suggests that they were church-going and god-fearing people, who were regular and probably active members of the congregation of Holy Trinity church.

APPLETON ROEBUCK MEMORIAL

JOSEPH BARNES, 26

Joseph Barnes died on 25th May 1915, aged 26. He was a Lance Sergeant with the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Royal Hussars, and was a career soldier, joining the regiment some years before the beginning of the Great War.

Joseph was born in Appleton Roebuck, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Barnes. In 1891 he was aged 2, and was living with his parents and his brother Henry (11), and sisters Frances (8), and Alice (6). His father, then 42, an agricultural labourer, was born in Appleton too, but his wife was born in Swillington, and Henry in Woodlesford (both villages south-east of Leeds). This suggests that earlier Joseph senior had to seek employment away from the village. Also living at the same address in Appleton was Charles Barnes, 70 and a widower, and Lucy Barnes, 18, described on the 1891 Census return as Charles' granddaughter (who presumably was young Joseph's cousin).

The family's 1901 Census entry describes Lucy as 'Housekeeper', and Henry as 'Engine driver, road roller'. Frances, by now 18, and Alice, 16, are no longer living at home, and are likely to have taken up residential domestic servant positions elsewhere. Three new daughters to Elizabeth and Joseph are recorded: Maud (9), Clare (5), and Mabel (3). Young Joseph was at school. Charles is still present, and apparently still working (even though now 80), as he gives his employment as 'Farm labourer'.

By 1911, Joseph (now 22) was a member of the 18th Hussars and living in Aliwal Barracks in Tidworth, Hampshire. The Appleton census reveals that his parents were living in Appleton, in three rooms, with only Mabel, still at school, and a new daughter, Elsie (7).

The 18th Hussars were a cavalry regiment, originally formed in 1759. They were given the additional title 'Queen Mary's Own' in 1910, and Joseph may have taken part in their ceremonial role in the 1911 Coronation, and in the 1912 Royal Tournament. On 15th August 1914, the 18th Hussars left from Southampton for France, with 25 officers, 525 other ranks, and 608 horses. They landed with the men singing 'Here we are, here we are, here we are again', although the regiment had not been in France since the Battle of Waterloo. They were in action a week later, and in ambushing a patrol of German Uhlans were responsible for the first shots fired by the British Army in the Great War. The unit was involved in most of the battles of the first months, and initially 'fought as cavalry expected to fight', mounted and wheeling freely through open country.

Soon they had to leave their horses to operate as mobile infantry, and then were required to man the trenches of the newly dug front lines. It was in this role near Ypres that at 2.45am on 24th May 1915 the 18th Hussars were subject to a devastating chlorine gas attack. At a roll call after the attack, only 57 of 237 men who had been in the trenches answered, though some returned later. Joseph died the day after this attack, though not from gas poisoning, like many colleagues, but from wounds suffered in the accompanying German assault. The *Memoirs of the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Royal Hussars* state simply 'Sergt. Barnes was of our best'. Joseph Barnes lies in Klien-Vierstraat Cemetery in Flanders, 6km south-west of Ypres.

HENRY YATES CUNDALL, 28

Henry Yates Cundall died in Palestine on 31st October 1918, aged 28. He was a Corporal, serving with the 16th Mountain Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery, which was attached to the 4th Highland Mountain Brigade, and was fighting Ottoman forces allied to the Germans.

Henry was the son of Joseph Cundall and Mary Hally Cundall. He was born in Tadcaster on 29th March 1890, and was baptised there at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on 1st September.

In 1901, according to that year's Census, Henry (aged 11) was a boarder at Woodhouse Grove School, Rawdon, near Leeds and Bradford. The school was founded by the Methodist Conference in 1812, to provide education for the sons of ministers (it continues today as a co-educational independent boarding school).

By 1911, Henry was back living with his family in Sherburn, in an 11-roomed dwelling. The family then consisted of his father Joseph, a farmer and valuer, aged 62, his wife Grace Isabell (53), and Joseph's daughter Annie Catherine, who was 33 and single, and described as assisting with the housework (most of which would have been done by Florence Bell, the 18-year-old domestic servant). No mention is made in the 1911 Census return of Mary Hally, Henry's mother, so it is possible that she had died, and that Joseph re-married. The return records that 11 children had been born to the family, 8 of whom were still alive. The family had local roots: Joseph had been born in Appleton Roebuck, and Grace in Acaster Malbis, while Annie, like Henry, was Tadcaster-born.

In 1911, Henry was single, and working as an auctioneer's clerk (perhaps for his father). It is not known when he joined the Army, nor whether he volunteered or was conscripted, but it is likely that he was still un-

married, as he seems to have given his parents and not a wife as his next of kin.

Henry Yates Cundall is buried in the Ramleh Military Cemetery in what is now Israel. He would have fought in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign, which began in January 1915 when a German-led Ottoman army attempted to seize the Suez Canal. Following British and Australian forces successes in 1918, the Ottomans signed an armistice on 30th October 1918, with a cease-fire coming into operation at noon on the following day. As Henry died on 31st October, it is likely that he was not killed in action, but rather died from one of the diseases endemic in the area, like many of his comrades, or from wounds suffered earlier.

HARRY LORRIMAN, 20

Harry Lorriman was a Private serving with the 8th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and was aged 20 when he was killed in action on 1st July, 1916.

Harry was born in 1896, the son of Alice Maud Mary Lorriman, who was 42 in 1901 when she described herself in her census return simply as 'widow'. She was living alone in Appleton Roebuck with her children: her daughter Alice (9), and sons Albert (7), Harry (5), and Edgar (3). Mrs Lorriman was born in Upper Poppleton, but all her children were born in Appleton.

The 1911 Census records that Mrs Lorriman, who now entered 'laundress' as her employment, was still living in Appleton, in what was described as a 4-roomed house. She reported that she had given birth to six children, who were all still alive, but only Edgar was still with her. Harry would have been 15, and old enough to work, and presumably there was no suitable job for him in Appleton Roebuck.

Harry enlisted in the Army in York as a volunteer, aged 18, in 1914. The 8th Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry to which he belonged had been raised in Pontefract in September 1914, and trained there and at Frensham, Hyde, and Bordon, before embarking for France. The Battalion landed at Boulogne in August 1915, and was transferred to the Front in October.

Harry was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The battle lasted for 141 days, but the first day was the bloodiest, and the worst day in the history of the British Army. Some 993 officers (60% of those leading their men over the top) and 18,247 other ranks were killed on that day. Harry was in the sector of the Front where casualties were

highest. In his battalion 25 officers, a medical officer, and 659 soldiers left their trenches at 7.30 am to advance at a steady pace in an extended line towards the German defences. All the officers were killed or wounded within the first minutes, and the medical officer led back the 110 men who survived.

A total of 57,470 British soldiers were killed, wounded, or were missing at the end of the first day, 1st July. Harry Lorriman was one of the missing: his remains were never found or identified. He is commemorated on the Thiepval monument, where his is one of 72,194 names of men who have no known graves.

COPMANTHORPE MEMORIALS

ALFRED ERNEST BEEDHAM, 25

Alfred was one of the five children of Thomas and Annie Beedham. Thomas was a shepherd at Manor Farm and earned fifteen shillings a week. The 1901 Census records that the family (all of whom were born in Copmanthorpe) lived in a three-roomed cottage and at that time included Alfred's older sister Blanche, and John, his younger brother. John, who would have been 18 in 1914, also fought in the Great War, and was wounded. At the age of 86, Blanche spoke to an interviewer about her memories, but did not mention her brothers.

Alfred Beedham enlisted in Wakefield, giving the town as his place of residence. When he enlisted is not known, but the date of his death suggests that he was one of the hundreds of thousands of young men who volunteered before the introduction of conscription. He served as a gunner with "W" 8th Trench Mortar Battery of the Royal Field Artillery in France. This unit fought at the Battle of the Somme, when nearly 20,000 British soldiers were killed on its first day, 1 July 1916, but Alfred died some months later. He was killed in action near Bethune, aged 25, on 29 September 1916. As the date of his death does not fall within any specific military offensive, and as mortar units tended to attract enemy shelling when they were fired (making them unpopular with other front-line troops), it is possible that Alfred was killed by retaliatory artillery fire in everyday operations. He is buried at Vermelles British Cemetery in France.

IVAN VICTOR REED, 23

Ivan Reed was born in Skelton, the son of William and Louisa Reed and moved with them to Hurton Villa, Copmanthorpe, along with at least two brothers and a sister. It seems that his was a 'respectable' and

responsible family. His father was a parish councillor and a church warden, and his sister was a teacher. Ivan's brother John Frederick (Fred) followed their father onto Copmanthorpe Parish Council and served for 36 years (29 as chairman), until 1970. A bachelor who continued to live in Hurton Villa, Fred came to the village in 1910, at the age of 18. He worked at the railway headquarters in York, but served in France in the Great War with the Machine Gun Corps and was taken prisoner in the last German offensive before the Armistice. Fred died at the age of 80. Another brother, Alan, who also lived at Hurton Villa, died in 1988, aged over 90. He had been a lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps during the War.

Ivan Reed was killed in action on 1 April 1918, aged 23. He was a Corporal of D Company, in the 20th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps, after having enlisted at Hull with the East Riding Yeomanry. Enemy machine-gunners were generally regarded with hostility by the infantry soldiers of both sides because of the slaughter they inflicted on advancing troops, and were often given no quarter when captured. Ivan was one of 14,000 British soldiers killed in March and April 1918 in the last German offensive who were never found and have no known graves. He is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, near the Somme battlefields in France.

JOSEPH E GERMAIN, 22

Joseph was the son of William Germain, who was from Slingsby, and his wife Ester Ann, born in Robin Hood's Well (a hamlet near Doncaster). At the time of the census in 1901, William and Ester were living at 3 Railway Cottages, Copmanthorpe, with their baby daughter Olive, and seven sons who ranged in age from four to sixteen. Joseph, then six, was the second youngest boy. Harry, the eldest, was working as a railway porter, while Frank (aged 15) was a railway lamp-lad. William Germain was a signaller and his work on the railways would have taken him around Yorkshire, for Harry was born in East Cowton and Frank and Fred in Moss; both are villages which lie alongside railway lines. The family must have moved to Copmanthorpe by 1890 because all the younger children (including Joseph) were born in the village.

The plaque in St Giles' Church shows that Harry and Robert (who was three years older than Joseph) served in the Great War, although Harry as a railway worker could have been exempt from conscription. Records show that Joseph enlisted in the Army at York (though not when) and was a private in the 23rd (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, when he was killed in action in France, aged 22, on 6 December

1917. This date does not occur within any specific offensive on the Western Front, so he may have fallen victim to routine shelling or sniping. He is buried in the Guémappe British Cemetery, Wancourt, near Arras, in France. He had given as his next of kin only his mother, living at 56 Doncaster Road, South Elmsall, Pontefract: she would have been 53 then, and his father (if still living) would have been 56.

ARTHUR WALTER, 37

Arthur Walter is the only officer listed on the stone memorial for the Great War, and was a second lieutenant in the 1st Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment. The Battalion was in York in August 1914, and landed in France on 10 September 1914. Arthur was killed in action nearly four years later, on 21 March, 1918, during the desperate last German assault of the war, which forced the Allied armies back across the former Somme battlefields. He was 37, which is old for a second lieutenant (the most junior commissioned rank) and he held a Military Medal (not awarded to officers), as he had served in the ranks before being commissioned. Commissioning from the ranks was not uncommon as the war progressed; it has been suggested that by its end two-thirds of officers had been commissioned in the field. He is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, and not by a grave, which means that his body was never found.

Officers at the Front had a higher casualty rate than other ranks, as they were specifically targeted by snipers in the trenches and when they led their men 'over the top' and across No Man's Land to attack enemy lines, but as well as greater responsibilities, they had greater freedoms and privileges. Arthur would have received an individual commission from the King, reading 'George by the grace of God ... to our trusty and well-beloved Arthur ...', and referring to the King's special trust and confidence in Arthur's 'loyalty, courage, and good conduct'. His pay would have been much greater than a soldier's, whose basic pay was one shilling (5p) a day, usually paid irregularly and in arrears. A new second lieutenant's total income from pay and allowances was £200 (on which he paid income tax of £6). His outfit allowance easily paid for two service dress uniforms and a greatcoat and accessories, as well as a sword and revolver, for unlike soldiers, officers bought their own uniforms and weapons. He could afford to supplement army rations with delicacies from Harrods, and his food in the trenches would have been prepared by his batman, the soldier-servant allocated to each officer. Hampers from home might have contained whisky (then costing £3 10s (£3.50) a bottle) or brandy, whereas other ranks were not permitted to drink spirits, even in cafes in

towns behind the lines during rest periods. At base camp Arthur would have shared a tent with another officer, but ten of his men would have occupied one tent, and if wounded, he would have received better and more sympathetic treatment. Arthur is likely to have worn a moustache, because until 1917 King's Regulations made them compulsory for officers, though not for men.

As a second lieutenant, Arthur Walter would have commanded a platoon of 48 soldiers and 4 non-commissioned officers, who were divided into sections of 12 men under a sergeant or corporal. The 1st Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment, at full strength, would have consisted of 1007 men, including 30 officers. Arthur's platoon would have been one of four making up a company, commanded by a major with a captain as second-in-command. There were four companies and a head-quarters unit to each battalion, which was commanded by a lieutenant-colonel, with a major as second-in-command.

Arthur was the son of William, a labourer, and Alice Walter, who lived in Watford. He was a professional soldier, and gave his residence as Tidworth (a military base in Wiltshire) when he married Hannah Milburn Tomlinson, spinster of Copmanthorpe, in St Giles' Church on Christmas Eve, 1912. Hannah was the daughter of William Henry Tomlinson (deceased), and was aged 35: Arthur was 32. When Arthur was killed, Hannah was living at 118 Albemarle Road, The Mount, York, and his mother Alice was a widow.

RICHARD BROWN, 28

Richard Brown was born in Church Fenton. Richard enlisted in York and was a lance corporal in the 11th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own). He was aged 28 when he was killed on 7 June 1917, near Ypres in Belgium. It was the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres, when the British army launched a major assault at Passchendaele. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial to the missing in Ypres, which means that his remains still lie somewhere in the earth of Flanders' fields.

Richard was the son of William Brown, a railway porter, and his wife Mary, and at the time of the 1901 Census was aged 12 and was living with them and his sister Sarah at 2 Railway Cottages, in Kirk Fenton (as it was then called). However, on enlisting he gave as his next of kin his brother Edward Brown, of 11 Mayfield Terrace, Tadcaster. This proximity suggests that Richard himself may have lived in or near the village, though no Copmanthorpe address is given to explain why his name is on the

Memorial. It is possible that his parents were dead or infirm (though in 1917 they would have been aged 59 and 64), or that he was estranged from them, and so named his brother as next of kin. As his brother was not recorded as living with his parents by the census, it seems that he would have been at least two or three years older than Richard, possibly leaving home for work in his early teens.

WORLD WAR TWO

REGINALD CARTER, 47

Reginald Carter was a Major, aged 47, when he died on 14 September, 1944. He was the son of John and Mary Ann Carter, whose address is not given, and husband of Violet Victoria Carter 'of Copmanthorpe, Yorkshire'. Major Carter is recorded as being on the General List (rather than serving with a specific unit), and is buried in the Stanley Military Cemetery in Hong Kong.

By 1941 it was recognised that Japanese annexation of Hong Kong could not be prevented, but nonetheless there was stubborn resistance. The colony was taken by the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941, after 17 days of intense fighting, and it is probable that Reginald was captured then and held in the officers' camp in Stanley. Some of the prisoners-of-war and civilian internees were executed, but Reginald almost certainly died (after more than two years in captivity) of disease, exacerbated by malnutrition and harsh treatment; it is alleged that the Japanese withheld available drug treatment from the prisoners.

ALFRED ALLAN MAY, 33

Alfred May was a gunner with 61 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, and died in North Africa on 27 October 1942, at the age of 33. He was killed in action, during the Battle of Alamein, which began four days earlier. He is buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery, some 80 miles west of Alexandria in Egypt. Alfred was the son of James William and Ada May of Copmanthorpe, and husband of Dorothy Hannah May, who lived at 14 Drome Gates, Copmanthorpe. He had been employed at the LNER carriage works. His death was reported in the *Yorkshire Evening Press* on 1 December 1941, which showed his photograph; this is the only known local newspaper report of a village soldier's death.

REGINALD BASIL WRIGHT, 23

Reginald Wright died aged 23 on 9 December 1940, and is buried in the churchyard at Shawbury, in Shropshire. He was in the RAF Volunteer

Reserve, and was a Leading Aircraftman who was training to be a pilot. Shawbury is a village near Shrewsbury, and it is possible that Reginald was killed in an accident whilst learning to fly at a nearby airfield (during World War Two, casualties from accidents in flying training and exercises in Britain were high). Reginald was the son of Joseph Henry and Florence Anne Wright of Copmanthorpe.

HAROLD STANLEY JARRATT, 28

Trooper Harold Stanley Jarratt of the 8th Royal Tank Regiment died, aged 28, on 23 November 1941 and is buried in the Knightsbridge War Cemetery, Acroma, Libya. Acroma is not far from Tobruk, and the Eighth Army had an advance fuelling station and airfield there. The cemetery contains remains of servicemen retrieved from scattered desert battlefield sites in the surrounding area, and Harold is likely to have died during the resistance to the German advance towards Suez. No address is given for his parents, but his name is distinctive (and unique in the national register); he is remembered locally as being from the Fox and Hounds. On 18 October 1944, 25-year-old Muriel Jarratt, also of the Fox and Hounds and daughter of Harold Wilks Jarratt, grocer, married a Canadian airman.

ROBIN KING, 23

There is only one Robin King in the national register. He was a Lance Corporal in the 2nd Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment and died, aged 23, on 16 October 1944. He is buried in the Mierlo War Cemetery in the Netherlands, suggesting that he was involved in the fighting to liberate Holland which took place from September to November 1944. Robin was the son of Frederick John and Mary Alice King. His parents' address is not given, but they appear in the Copmanthorpe Register of Baptisms when Robin was baptised on 14 August 1921. Frederick's occupation was recorded then as being a farm labourer. The baptisms and marriages of their children Alice and Hubert are also recorded. Hubert was born on 17 April 1926, and married in 1946, and when he joined the Home Guard, he gave his occupation as an acting fireman for the LNER, and his address as 15 Moor Lane Copmanthorpe. As this was before he married, and when he was 17 or 18, it is likely that this was the parental address. Robin's wife is named in the national register as being Peggy Louisa Mary King of Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The transcript of a taped interview with Mr and Mrs King indicates that they seem to be Robin's parents, Frederick and Mary. Mrs King (who was then 90) says that she had 'nine lads and four girls: we lost two, one son

was killed in this last war and then I lost a girl in the first war, she was two years and ten months'. They make no other reference to Robin. Frederick was born in Shipton, but Mary was the daughter of Charles Lindsell of Copmanthorpe, a railway platelayer. The couple married on 10 June 1905 and returned to Copmanthorpe from Shipton.

JOHN HERBERT RODGERS, 26

John Rodgers was serving with the 7th Battalion of the Green Howards (Yorkshire Regiment) when he died, aged 26, on 26 October 1942. He died three days after the start of the Battle of Alamein and is buried in the El Alamein War Cemetery. He was the son of John William and Nellie Christabel Rodgers, and the husband of Winifred Mary Rodgers, of Acaster Malbis. While his parents' address is not given, it seems likely, because of the proximity of Acaster, that they lived in Copmanthorpe.

OTHERS WHO SERVED

It has not been possible to identify with any certainty the other names listed on the memorial of men who died in the First and Second World Wars.

The plaque in St Giles Church lists a further 14 men who were wounded, and another 51 who served during the Great War, giving a total of 75 Copmanthorpe men who went to war. In 1911, the Census recorded 178 males living in the village, of whom about 117 would have been of adult working age (16 to 65, which is wider than the eventual liability-to-conscription age range of 18 to 51). This suggests that more than 60% of the eligible men in Copmanthorpe served in the military.

Of those who served, 13.3% died; this is more than the national average for Britain of 11.8%. The deaths represent 8.5% of the population of adult males of working age in the village, compared to the national 6.3% of males aged between 15 and 49 who died. Not all who served in the Great War fought on the front-line, where the great majority of the deaths occurred. There were more soldiers behind the lines in support roles, though there is disagreement about how many more; the Army Council maintained that there were only three support troops to each fighting man, but an officer at the front estimated the true ratio at fourteen to one. The death ratio for Copmanthorpe's soldiers suggests that a higher than average proportion served in units fighting at the Front.