

GOLDSBOROUGH AT WAR

THE STORY OF THE PARISH DURING TWO WORLD WARS

1914 – 1918 AND 1939 - 1945



Since 1975 the villages of Goldsborough and Flaxby have had their own Parish Councils that are combined into its one Goldsborough and Flaxby Grouped Parish Council. The villages of Coneythorpe and Clareton nowadays form part of the separate Arkendale, Coneythorpe and Clareton Parish Council.

However, at the time of the Great War of 1914 to 1918 and the Second World War of 1939 to 1945, the villages of Goldsborough, Flaxby, Coneythorpe and Clareton all formed part of the Parish of Goldsborough (which had its official title of Goldsborough Parish Meeting).

In recognition of the 5 soldiers from Goldsborough Parish who lost their lives in the First World War Goldsborough Parish Meeting arranged for a War Memorial to be erected inscribed with their names and erected in Goldsborough in 1921 on the green opposite the Bay Horse Inn. Then after the Second World War the names of the 3 soldiers from the Parish who died in that War were added onto the War Memorial. The War Memorial subsequently passed on to being the property of the current Goldsborough & Flaxby Grouped Parish Council.

Now, in recognition of the 100 years that has passed since the end of the First World War the current Parish Council is proud to be able to honour those 8 men who gave their lives with the addition of the following article on our website. The article provides some detail about those 8 men who lost their lives along with some additional information about the area during the First World War. Where the text is in red it refers to the 3 soldiers who died in the Second World War.

The Great War of 1914-1918 had a big impact on the Parish of Goldsborough and its young men. These men and boys, all farmers sons or farm lads, had most likely never been out of Yorkshire and certainly never abroad, but nine months after the start of the War, 31 of them from Goldsborough, Flaxby and Coneythorpe had responded to the Nation's call "You are the man I want" and were fighting on the Western front. Six were serving with the local 5th West Yorkshire Regiment and the rest were serving in 18 other Regiments. They would most likely have done their training at the hastily erected Ripon Army Camp, which saw thousands of soldiers pass through its gates during the war.

Algernon Lamb, the only son of Mr and Mrs Lamb of Goldsborough Hall, who was a Lieutenant in the 2nd Dragoon Guards was awarded the D.S.O. in July 1915, and the rector of Goldsborough, the **Rev. Edward Evans**, a well-liked and respected Welshman who was also the Chairman of the Goldsborough Parish Meeting, was given permission from the Earl of Harewood and the Bishop of Ripon to move to Plymouth to be a chaplain to the garrison there. He was at Plymouth for over two years and in late 1918 he decided to resign the living at Goldsborough where he had been Rector for 10 years, because of his ill health. 10 days after he ceased to be Rector he died of heart strain and was buried with full military honours near Plymouth. Later his name was inscribed on the Goldsborough War Memorial.

The villagers and school children supported the soldiers in many ways. As soon as war broke out Miss Sugden, the head teacher, got the girls knitting socks, scarves, belts and cuffs for the soldiers at the Front. Later the children picked 28 stone of horse chestnuts for use in the munition factories as it was thought that acetone could be extracted to make cordite. But it didn't work and hundreds of wagon load's of conkers were left to rot in railway sidings around the country. There was a monthly collection of eggs for the local hospitals and in June 1915, a welcome 620 eggs had been donated. A working party headed by Mrs Lamb from the Hall was soon busy sending comforts to the troops such as lots of knitted items, shirts, handkerchiefs, marmalade, chocolate and writing paper. At Christmas every man from the Parish serving at the Front was sent a packet of 280 cigarettes.

The first casualty of the war was **Richard Wilson** who had lived in Coneythorpe for around two years. His father was a labourer working for a threshing machine owner in the village. The Rector wrote that Richard was extremely popular, a regular church goer and many would mourn his loss. He received a letter from him, written the day before he died, thanking him for the gift of cigarettes. He said that good old Woodbines were by far the most useful present that could possibly be sent as they helped to pass the long dreary hours in the trenches. He said that they were well provided with clothes, fur coat, great coat and cape and plenty of gloves and were well looked after in the trenches with hot soup at night and one or two coke fires where they could make tea or cocoa. In summer the trenches were quite dry and not nearly as bad as people imagine but winter life was very different and difficult. His letter gave the impression of trying to reassure the friends back home that things were tolerable at the front most of the time. Richard died on December 18th 1916 aged 35, from wounds received that day at a battle 5 miles south of Ypres. This was the first battle in which the German army used the deadly Phosgene or Mustard gas. He was buried at a British war cemetery in Belgium.

Just 24 days before the end of the War, young **John George Chapman** aged 20, from Dove Cottage, Station Road, Goldsborough serving with The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, died in a London hospital from wounds received in September. He lingered on until 18th October, with his parents at his bedside, hoping he would rally round. He was brought back to Goldsborough to be buried in the churchyard with full military honours, the only casualty from the Parish to be buried back home amongst family and friends.

The two other casualties from the Parish were Sergeant **John Kirk**, a 28 year old farmer's son from Coneythorpe, serving with the Gordon Highlanders and **William Pannet** from Goldsborough. John died at the battle of Mons in July 1918 and William was killed in action in November 1917 near Cambrai. William's family, who lived at Crossways Cottage adjoining The Bay Horse Inn, later moved to Killinghall, where he is also recorded on the War Memorial in that village. The Voakes family of East View Farm are related to William Pannet.

There must have been quite a lot of excitement in 1917 when an aeroplane landed somewhere in Goldsborough and a small detachment of troops from the East Anglian Corps arrived to guard it. They stayed in the schoolroom overnight.

The peace treaty was signed by Germany and the Allies on Saturday 28th June 1919. Thanksgivings were offered at all the Church Services the next day with the Church bells being rung at noon.

The ending of this terrible war was celebrated in July 1919 when the Lambs from Goldsborough Hall hosted a peace celebration in Goldsborough Park. The returning soldiers and sailors and flag waving school children led by the Boroughbridge Band marched from Goldsborough School to the Hall where a meat tea awaited them. After tea there were sports and games and a dancing display by the children. The festivities ended with a fine fireworks display. The children all had their photographs taken tucking into their tea and were given an additional week's holiday from school.

It was decided to erect a War Memorial in the village to honour the dead of the Parish and many meetings were held to decide where to put the Memorial. Some favoured placing it in the churchyard and some in the centre of the village. Eventually the decision was made that the best area would be on the small green in the centre of the village in front of The Bay Horse Inn. Stephenson's of Knaresborough were commissioned to carve a stone cross mounted on steps. The memorial cost £85 with an extra payment for the lettering. The Memorial was dedicated on 19th July 1921 and unveiled by Major Lamb, D.S.O from Goldsborough Hall in a moving ceremony attended by a large number of parishioners and ex-servicemen.

A roll of honour was placed in Goldsborough Church recording the names of the 66 men from the Parish who had served their country in this War. It is a great pity that this record has not been kept to remind us of the men who fought and the five men who gave their lives during this First World War for our freedom.

[The War Memorial in Goldsborough is inscribed as follows:](#)

In Grateful Memory of
John George Chapman
Edward Williams Evans
John Charles Kirk
William Pannet
Richard Wilson

Who fell in the Great War 1914 to 1919 giving their lives that their friends might live

+

Grant them O Lord eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them

+

Thomas Thwaites
Frederick William Woodley
Eric Dale Chapman

Greater love
Hath no man than this
That a man
Lays down his life
For his friends

(in red - inscribed for those who died from the Parish in the Second World War)

Richard Wilson

Rank: Private

Number: 2466

Regiment: West Yorkshire Regiment

Battalion: 1/5th Battalion

Enlisted: York

Died of wounds France & Flanders 19th December 1915

Note: Private Wilson lived in Coneythorpe before World War 1. He joined the Territorials 1/5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment which was part of the 49th (West Riding) Division (Territorial Force 1st Line) in April 1915. He boarded a train for Folkestone where he embarked to Boulogne. The first battle the 49th Division took part in was on 9th May 1915. That was the Battle of Aubers Ridge.

Later in 1915, on 19th December, the Germans launched a deadly gas attack on the British Army. It was the first use of phosgene gas. This was colourless and odourless, and when inhaled it replaced the oxygen in the cells and quickly caused an oxygen debt within the body. The result was unconsciousness and eventual death. It was in this Battle on the edge of the Wytschaete Ridge 5 miles south of Ypres on the 19th December that Private Wilson died.

Private Wilson is buried in Belgium at "Ligssent Hoek" British War Cemetery Plot 2 Row B Grave 10.

His next of kin was his brother William Wilson of 3, Weller View, Stone Rock Lane, Leeds

John George Chapman

Rank: Private

Number: 65214

Regiment: King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Battalion: 2/4th Battalion

Enlisted: York

Died of wounds at home 18/10/1918

Formerly 7856 West Yorkshire Regiment

Note: Private Chapman was a local man who lived in Dove Cottage on Station Road in Goldsborough. He was born in Huby, near Easingwold. He was the son of Albert & Mary Chapman who during the War lived at 16 Whitleys Yard, Knaresborough. In 1916 John enlisted into the West Yorkshire Regiment, York. Later he was transferred to the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry the 2/4th Battalion. This unit was part of the 62nd (West Riding) Division Territorial 2nd Line. In January 1917 it arrived on the Western front and took part in the following Battles:

Battle of Bapaume 31st August to 3rd September 1918

Battle of Haurincourt 12th September 1918

Battle of the Canal Du Nord 27th September to 1st October 1918

It was during one of these Battles that Private Chapman was fatally injured. However, there was enough time for him to be brought back home before he died from his wounds on the 18th October 1918, sadly just 24 days from the end of the War. James George Chapman is buried in Goldsborough Cemetery.

The inscription on his grave is:

65214 Private J.G.Chapman

Kings Own Yorkshire L.I.

18.10.1918 aged 20

Eternal Rest

Note: On the War Memorial in Goldsborough his name appears as John George Chapman

John Charles Kirk

Rank: Sergeant

Number: 11076

Regiment: Gordon Highlanders

Battalion: 6th Battalion

Born: Coneythorpe

Enlisted: York

Killed in action in France & Flanders on the 23rd July 1918 aged 28

Note: Sergeant Kirk was born in Coneythorpe. Later his parents moved to Rose Cottage, Barley Fields, Wetherby. He was enlisted at York and placed into the 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders which was part of the 51st Highlander Division (Territorial Force) 1st Line. The Division crossed to France in April/May 1915 and by the end of the War was regarded as one of the best fighting Divisions of the British Army. Sergeant Kirk was killed on 23rd July 1918 in the Battle of Tardenois (20th to 31st July) which formed part of the Second Battle of the Marne of 1918. (The first being in 1914).

He is buried at "Marfaux" British War Cemetery in France Plot 3 Row H.

William Pannet

Rank: Private

Number: 49322

Regiment: West Yorkshire Regiment

Battalion: 2/6th Battalion

Born: Myton near Boroughbridge

Enlisted: Harrogate

Killed in action on 22/11/1917 in France

Note: William was born at Myton and later his family moved to Goldsborough and lived in Crossways Cottage, the house adjoining The Bay Horse Inn. His brother Fred Pannet was a gunner in the Black Watch Regiment and was wounded during the war.

William enlisted at Harrogate and was placed into the 2/6th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment. This Battalion was part of the 62nd (West Riding) Division Territorial Force 2nd Line. In January 1917 it arrived on the Western front.

During November 1917 the 62nd Division took part in the Cambrai Operations of 20th November to 7th December. During these operations the 62nd Division fought in the following Battles:

The Tank Attack 20th to 21st November 1917

Capture of Bournon Wood 23rd to 28th November 1917

It was during one of these Battles that Private William Pannet was killed. After the Battle his body wasn't recovered from the battlefield, so he now lays where he fell in an unmarked grave. His name appears on the "Cambrai War Memorial" in France. This memorial is in "Loverval" British War Cemetery, which is approximately 10km south west of Cambrai.

Thomas Thwaites

Rank: Lance Sergeant

Number: 824080

Regiment: Royal Artillery

Unit: 13th Battery 7HHA Reg

Died in Malta 19th/20th January 1942 aged 28

Note: Thomas Thwaites lived at Martin's Farm in Flaxby which once stood where the bus stop is today. His parents, John & Anna Thwaites lived in York. At the outbreak of War he enlisted into the Royal Artillery and was placed into the 13th Battery which was stationed in Malta. It was here that he died on 19th/20th January 1942.

After his death, Thomas Thwaites body was taken to Moascar War Cemetery in Egypt. He is buried in Plot 1, Row c, Grave 18.

Frederick William Woodley

Rank: Private

Number: 14534444

Regiment: West Yorkshire

Battalion: 2nd Battalion

Killed in Burma 27th March 1945 aged 21

Note: Private Woodley lived in Goldsborough on Station Road. He was the son of Frederick & Elizabeth Woodley who lived in Knaresborough. He also had a brother Godfrey Orson Woodley who served in the Navy during the War. Around 1942 Private Woodley was enlisted into the West Yorkshire Regiment and was placed into the 2nd Battalion. In September 1939 this Battalion was in Palestine and moved around the Middle East. In November 1940 it was placed into the 9th Indian Infantry Brigade. Later in the War it moved to India and then into Burma. It was here that Private Woodley was killed on 27th March 1945.

He is buried in Burma in "Taukkyan" British War Cemetery Plot 20 Row C Grave 1.

Eric Dale Chapman

Rank: Lance Corporal

Number: 2370010

Regiment: Royal Signals

Unit: 49th Divisional Signals

Killed in action 28th July 1944

Note: Lance Corporal Chapman was the son of the Rector of Goldsborough. After enlisting he was placed into the Royal Signals. On June 6th 1944 the World's biggest amphibious landings took place in Normandy (D Day). Six days later on June 12th Lance Corporal Chapman as part of the 49th Divisional Signals landed in Normandy in the second wave. They were drawn into the bitter fighting around Caen almost immediately. During operation Epsom, as the Allies tried to capture and establish bridgeheads over the River Odon & Orne south west of Caen the 49th Division on the right flank met fierce resistance from the experienced German SS Panzer Division. It was here that he was killed aged 22.

He is buried in "Rainville Cemetery" in France Plot 3 Row B Grave 2. The Cemetery is in Rainville Village just north of Herouvillette.

More details relating to the Second World War in Goldsborough and nearby will be added in due course.

Goldsborough at War has been compiled by Mrs Pat Wood of Goldsborough and her permission has been kindly given to include it on the Goldsborough & Flaxby Parish Council website