

# **HARDEN WAR MEMORIAL.**

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**DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY  
OF THE MEN LISTED ON THE  
WAYSIDE CROSS, HARDEN**

**COMPILED BY HARDEN PARISH COUNCIL,  
TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE  
BEGINNING OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

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**4TH AUGUST 2014**

*Lettering on the Cross.*

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## REMEMBER

1914

1919

*Names inscribed upon the base of the Cross.*

(left side) Richard J. Bunker \* Horace C.  
Capstick \* Thomas Connor \*  
Thos. Foster \* Archibald W.  
Goodechild \* Cecil H. Graham

(middle) Robt. Graham \* Ellis Heaton \*  
H. T. Metcalfe \* Percy Naylor  
\* John Seake \* James Scott \*  
Thomas Scott \* Thos. Varey

(right side) Alfred H. Wade \* Robt. Bertie  
Walker \* Arthur Waller \* Thos.  
Watson \* Alfd. M. Whitwham  
\* Thomas Wise \* Jas. Wright

## INTRODUCTION

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At the beginning of the First World War on 4th August 1914, there were less than 250,000 soldiers in the British army, yet by the end of the war on 11th November 1918, over 700,000 British soldiers had been killed. Some of these soldiers were either from, or otherwise associated with, the village of Harden.

In October 1920, the 'Wayside Cross', the war memorial to the men of Harden who died in the First World War, was unveiled. A commemorative booklet was produced, which was sold at a cost of one shilling to those who attended the unveiling and dedication of the memorial.

Harden Parish Council have now reproduced this booklet to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War in August 2014, and have included within its pages information about the men whose names are inscribed on the war memorial. Some of these men lived in Harden, and a reproduction of a map from the period (the Ordnance Survey map from 1908) is reproduced in the centre pages of this booklet so some of their street names can be identified. The factories in Harden where some of these men were employed prior to entering the war can also be seen on this map, namely Harden Worsted Mills and Steel's Spring Works.

Researching soldiers from the First World War, as well as being absolutely fascinating and greatly humbling, is also somewhat frustrating, as many of the army records from the war were destroyed in the Second World War, thus many of the army records are damaged or missing altogether. Therefore there is a varying amount of information within these pages relating to the soldiers: some we learned much about, and others not so much, but in each case we have endeavoured to discover as much as possible to remember these men and the great sacrifice they made.

To collate this booklet, information has been garnered from those still existing war records, the 1911 Census (which is available to view online and holds a wealth of information), and also the invaluable records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (hereafter referred to as CWGC), which works to commemorate the 1,700,000 men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the two world wars. The Keighley Roll of Honour for the war was also perused for names from the memorial, but only one was to be found on there (not surprising as families had to pay at the time to have names included in the roll). The local newspaper from the time, 'The Keighley News, which incorporates the Keighley and Bingley Chronicle' (hereafter referred to as the Keighley News) was also utilised in this research and the papers from the war years, 1914-1918, are also now available online.

Many thanks to the residents of the village who have provided photographs and other information for this booklet.

*Harden Parish Council, July 2014*



## Ellis Heaton

Born in Harden in 1897, Ellis Heaton is listed in the 1911 Census as being 14 years of age and living at **Anthony House, Anthony Lane, Harden**. Ellis lived with his father Samuel, mother Mary Jane, brothers Joseph (aged 17), Thomas (aged 12) and Arthur (aged 8), and his sister Annie (aged 12), and his occupation in 1911 was as a 'bobbin coker officer' at a worsted mill.

Ellis enlisted in Sheffield in September 1915 and was sent to the front in March 1916. The Keighley News of 25th August 1917 (page 3) states that his father has received information that 'his son, Ellis Heaton, has been gassed and wounded, and is now in hospital in Boulogne'. It also states that 'before the war he was an apprentice with Mr F Lambert, painter and paperhanger', therefore Ellis had left his work at the mill by the time of the war. His photograph is included in the piece (right).

Ellis was killed in action on 27th August 1918, and is listed in the CWGC as Corporal E Heaton, 11927, of the 38th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). The Keighley News of 21st September 1918 carries the story under 'Local Heroes of the War', and states that 'Corporal Ellis Heaton (22) of the Machine Gun Corps, was killed in action on August 27. He enlisted in September, 1915, and was gassed and wounded in July, 1917. He had been serving in France over two years. Before joining the army he was employed by Mr F Lambert, painter, Harden.'

Ellis is commemorated at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France.



## Henry Metcalfe

Henry, or Harry, Metcalfe was in the navy before the war began, therefore he is not listed as living in Harden at the time of the 1911 Census. However his family lived at **Cuckoo Nest, St Ives Estate, Harden**, where his father was the gamekeeper.

Harry made the transition from navy to army as soon as the war began, becoming Private Henry Metcalfe, 10493, of the 9th Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment. Harry died aged 25 on 5th October 1918, so tragically close to the end of the war in November that year. As such, Harry fought for almost the full term of the war and experienced many battles and wounds.

As page 9 of the Keighley News of 21st December 1918 reports: 'Local War Casualties: Mr K Metcalfe, gamekeeper, of Cuckoo Nest, St Ives, Harden, has received news from the War Office that his son, Harry Metcalfe (25), of the 9th Yorkshire Regiment, was wounded and missing on October 5. Before the war he was in the navy and transferred from there to the army. He went to France in October, 1914, and went through some of the largest battles, including Mons, and wears the Mons ribbon. He was wounded last March, and afterwards again went to France. Mr Metcalfe has two other sons in the army and one in the navy.'

Unfortunately Harry had actually been killed at the time he was reported to be missing. Page 5 of the Keighley News on 27th September 1919, almost a year after the end of the war, displays his photograph (*top right*) and reports, 'Private H Metcalfe, of Harden (killed).'

Harry is commemorated at Vis-En-Artois Memorial, a memorial for those killed in the First World War located near the commune of Vis-En-Artois, in the Pas-de-Calais department of France.



## Alfred H Wade

14 year old Alfred Hill Wade is listed in the 1911 Census as living at 3 **Croft Street, Harden**, with his father Luther, mother Jane, sister Elsie (aged 16) and brothers Clifford (aged 9), Willie (aged 4) and one month old Denis. He was born in Bingley and in 1911 his occupation was spring works labourer, at the Harden spring manufacturers.

By the beginning of the war the family had moved to Crossflatts, and Alfred was working for a milk dealer in Crossflatts. He enlisted into the army in January 1915 and he was sent to France the following year. Gunner Alfred Hill Wade, 795801, of the Royal Field Artillery, was injured in 1918 in France and died of his wounds on 27th May 1918, aged 22.

His photograph appears on page 3 of the Keighley News from 15th June 1918, under 'Local Heroes of the War', with the caption: 'Gun A H Wade of Crossflatt (died of wounds).'

Alfred is commemorated at Etaples Military Cemetery, France.



## John Peake

Born in Harden in 1892, John Peake is listed in the 1911 Census as being 19 years of age and residing simply in **24 Kirk Hill, Harden**. He lived with his father Charles, mother Harriet Matilda, sisters Ellen (23) and Annie (21) and brother William (26).

John enlisted into the army in Halifax, and became Private J Peake, 51930, of the East Yorkshire Regiment (1st Battalion). He was killed in action on 24th October 1918 in France. John is listed in the Keighley Roll of Honour, and his photograph is included on page of the Keighley News from 25th January 1919, under 'Local Heroes of the War', with the caption, 'Pte J Peake, of Keighley (killed).'

John is commemorated at St Souplet British Cemetery, France.



## Arthur Waller

Arthur Waller was born in Skipton in 1892. In the 1911 Census he is listed as being 19 years of age, a general carrier and living at 15 Mount Street, Bingley, with his widowed mother Elizabeth, brother Joseph (aged 21), and sisters Maggie (aged 17), Nellie (aged 13), Lily (aged 11) and Eleanor (aged 8).

Private Arthur Waller, 13943, signed up to the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 2nd Battalion. He was reported as 'missing' in the Keighley News on 4th November 1916, but had sadly been killed in action on 12th October 1916

Arthur is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, France. This is a major war memorial to over 72,000 missing soldiers who died in the Battles of the Somme of the First World War between 1915 and 1918 and have no known grave.





## James Wright

James William Wright was born in Bottomboat, Yorkshire, in 1890, and the 1911 Census cites him as residing at 12 Crow Nest, Bingley, with his wife Nellie, also aged 21. James's occupation is leather belt maker for a leather manufacturer. His link to Harden is not as obvious as some of the other men on the memorial but it may be that he worked there, or had family residing there. The 1911 Census cites a Wright family living at **1 Mill Lane, Harden**, widowed Eliza with her two children Lucy and Joseph and niece Violet, so he may have been related to them.



James enlisted in Leeds, and became Private James William Wright, 21737, of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), 2nd Battalion. He was killed in action on 31st July 1917.

James is commemorated at Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, France. The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is one of four British and Commonwealth memorials to the missing in the battlefield area of the Ypres Salient in Belgian Flanders. The memorial bears the names of 54,389 officers and men from United Kingdom and Commonwealth Forces (except New Zealand and Newfoundland) who fell in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917 and who have no known grave.

## Thomas Scott

*Brother of James Scott*

Thomas Scott was the older brother of James Scott, also listed on the war memorial. Born in Bingley in 1885, he lived with his family at **58 Long Lane, Harden**, the eldest child of James and Mary. According to the 1911 Census, 26 year old Thomas worked as a spring maker in the spring factory in Harden.

Thomas enlisted in Halifax in December 1915 and was mobilised the following year. Private Thomas Scott, 63392 of the Durham Light Infantry spent over a year in service in France but returned in May 1917, and in December that year was admitted to 1st Western General Hospital in Liverpool diagnosed with chronic nephritis (inflamed kidneys). Thomas' army records state that his condition was due to cold exposure on active service overseas in Ypres, France, and he was discharged on 9th January 1918.

Regrettably Thomas never recovered from this condition and he died on 8th June 1918, aged 33. Thomas is buried in Bingley Cemetery (*see right*).



## Thomas Varey

There is very little information to be found on Thomas Varey – he is not listed as living in Harden in the 1911 Census, and he does not appear in either the Keighley Roll of Honour or receive a mention in the Keighley News. However, according to his war records, Thomas Varey resided in **Harden, Bingley**, and the CWGC notes that he was the son of Mr and Mrs John Varey of Bradford.

Thomas enlisted in Bingley and became Private Thomas Varey, 11025, in the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment).

Thomas died of wounds on 7th May 1915, aged 38, and he is commemorated at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

## Horace C Capstick

The 1911 Census states that 15 year old Horace Campbell Capstick was born in 1896 in East Bowling, Bradford, and as residing **4 Croft Street, Harden**, with his father, James Capstick, sister Eveline Alberta (age 18) and brother Cyril Macpherson (aged 17). His occupation, having presumably left school when he was 14, was a mule 'piecer' or pricer.

After becoming Private 10973 in the 8th Battalion on the Duke of Wellington's (West Yorkshire Regiment), Horace died in Gallipoli, Turkey, on 12th August 1915.

The Keighley News mentions him twice, first on 18th September 1915 where it states on page 8:

'Harden - A missing soldier: Mr James Capstick, of **Spring Row, Harden**, has received official information that his son, Private H C Capstick, of the 8th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, is missing. He failed to answer the roll call on August 12. The last letter to his parents received from him from was in July from the Dardanelles when he stated that he was in the best of health.'

The second mention is 12th August 1916, where Horace's photograph is displayed on page 3, under 'Heroes of the Great Advance', with the caption, 'Private H C Capstick – missing.'

Horace is commemorated at Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Cannakkale, Turkey.



## Robert Graham

*Brother of Cecil H Graham*

Robert Graham was born in Harden in the year 1892. At the time of the 1911 Census he was 19 and working as an optician's apprentice. He is listed in the Census as living at **The Cragg, Harden**, with his father Robert, mother Grace, brothers John (aged 28), Samuel (aged 25), Cecil (aged 15 – also listed on Harden war memorial), Arthur (aged 17) and George (aged 10), and sisters Jane (aged 26), Annie (aged 24), Sarah (aged 22), Elsie (aged 20) and Edith (aged 13).

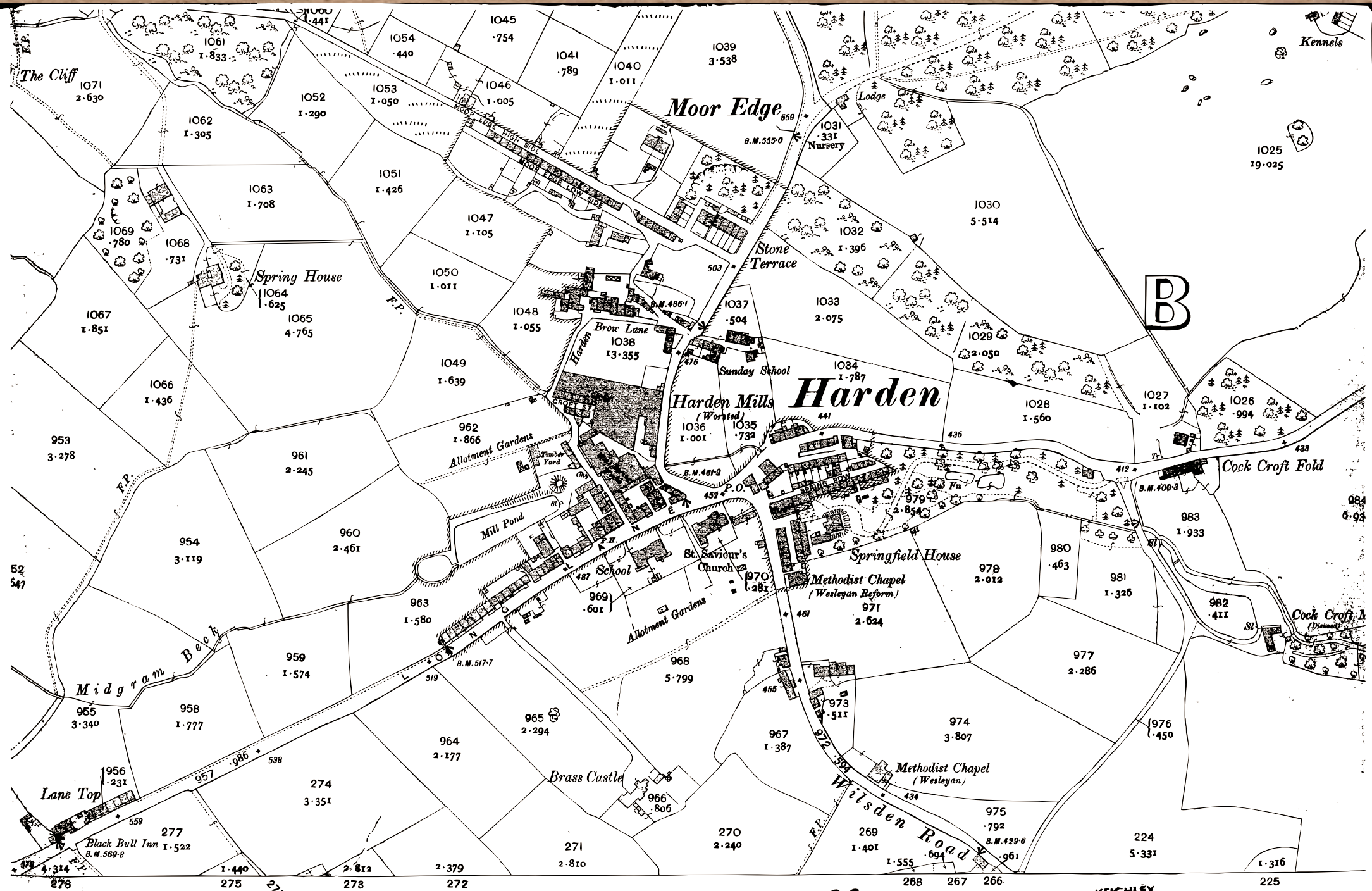
Robert enlisted in Sheffield, and became Private Graham, 57267, in the 1st Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment).

Robert is referred to as 'Bertie Graham' in pages 3 and 5 of the Keighley News on 19th May 1917, where he is listed as 'missing'. He died on 31st July 1917, aged 25, at the Third Battle of Ypres.

Robert is commemorated at Ypres Menin Gate Memorial (*see James Wright also*).









## James Scott

*Brother of Thomas Scott*

James Scott was born in Bingley in 1897, the youngest child of James and Mary Ann of **58 Long Lane, Harden**. The 1911 Census lists his two brothers, Thomas (aged 26, who also died in the war and whose name is on the war memorial), John (aged 19), and sisters Elizabeth (aged 21) and Lily Ann (aged 16). James was 14 in 1911, and his occupation is listed as 'daffer' or 'doffer', working with the spinning machines in the local worsted mill in Harden.

James joined the army in December 1915, becoming Private James Scott, 18767, of the 10th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). He served eighteen months in France before being transferred to Italy in November 1917. James was injured twice in his years in France, which is reported in the Keighley News on 16th September 1916 and 15th September 1917. On 28th September 1918, page 3 of the Keighley News carries an article displaying James' photograph (*see right*), stating that he is missing: 'News has been received by Mr James Scott, 58, Long Lane, Harden, that his son, Private James Scott (22), of the West Riding Regiment, was reported missing on August 26. A letter from an officer states that he was a true and gallant soldier, and was last seen on raid duty carrying a Lewis gun.'

Sadly, James had died on 26th August 1918, a fact that is not officially reported until the next year. The Keighley News on 29th November 1919 states on page 7, 'Private James Scott, of Harden, reported dead.'

James is commemorated at Giavera Memorial, Italy. Giavera Memorial commemorates 150 soldiers of the Commonwealth who died in Italy between 1917 and 1918, and whose places of burial is not known.



## Richard J Bunker

According to the 1911 Census, Richard James Bunker, age 27, lived at **17 Lane End, Harden**, with his wife Jane, age 28.

Born in 1884, by 1911 Richard was working as a domestic coachman, and at the time of his death in 1918 he was living at 12 Cardigan Street, Bingley and an employee of Bingley District Council. Richard enlisted into the army in Bingley, and became Private 57699 in the 'C' Coy. 2nd/4th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. The military decoration was awarded to Richard James Bunker for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Conferment of the medal was announced in the London Gazette and Richard earned the right to add the letters M.M. to his name.

He died on 26th August 1918, aged 34, in France, and is commemorated at Gomiecourt South Cemetery, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France.

## Thomas Foster

Thomas Foster was 15 years old at the time of the 1911 Census, having been born in the year 1896, and he lived at **42 Long Lane, Harden**, with his father Jonathan, mother Hannah, sister Christianna (aged 17) and brother James (aged 11). Thomas was employed as a 'jobber boy' (or pieceworker) in the local worsted mills.

Thomas became Private 266108 of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 2nd/6th Battalion. On 22nd July 1918, the Keighley News lists Thomas under 'Heroes of the Great Advance' on page 5, citing 'Private T Foster, Bingley – wounded'. By the time of his death from his war wounds on 8th November 1919, Thomas's family had moved up the road to **49 Long Lane, Harden**. Thomas was 23 years old when he died.

Thomas is buried in Bingley Cemetery (*see right*).



## Thomas Wise

There is relatively little information to be found on Thomas Wise, apart from his CWGC record and brief war records. He is not listed as living in Harden in the 1911 Census, and he does not appear in either the Keighley Roll of Honour, nor does his name appear in The Keighley News. His war records state that he was born in Ripon, and the CWGC notes that he was the son of Thomas and Mary Wise of Ripon, Yorkshire.

Thomas enlisted in Bradford so it may be that he lived in the Harden area, perhaps working in one of the mills, at the time. Thomas became Lance Serjeant Wise, 18/1128, in the 18th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He was killed in action in France on 13th November 1916, at the age of 22.

Thomas is commemorated at Sailly-Au-Bois Military Cemetery, France.

## Cecil H Graham

*Brother of Robert Graham*

Cecil H Graham was born in Bingley in 1896, and was 15 at the time of the 1911 Census. He is listed in the Census as living at **The Cragg, Harden**, with his father Robert, mother Grace, brothers John (aged 28), Samuel (aged 25), Robert (aged 20 – also listed on Harden war memorial), Arthur (aged 17) and George (aged 10), and sisters Jane (aged 26), Annie (aged 24), Sarah (aged 22), Elsie (aged 20) and Edith (aged 13). Cecil's occupation is listed as 'house painter's apprentice'.

Cecil became Driver C Graham, 135008, of the 3rd Division Col, Royal Field Artillery, and according to page 3 of the Keighley News on 6th July 1918, he was 'accidentally killed' on 21st June 1918, aged 23.

Cecil is commemorated at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, France.





## Percy Naylor

Born in 1897, Percy Naylor was aged only 14 in 1911 and he is listed in the Census as still being at school. He lived at **Ryecroft, Harden**, with his father Joseph, mother Martha Ann, and brothers Thomas (33) and Sam (27).

Percy enlisted into the army in Bingley in December 1917, at which time he was working as a clerk in Steel's spring making factory in Harden. Percy became Gunner Percy Naylor, 251298, of the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery. He died fighting on July 27th 1918 at what was the last major German offensive of the war, the Second Battle of the Marne. Percy was 22 years of age.

The CWGC notes that Percy was the: 'Son of Joseph and Martha Ann Naylor, of 9, Crescent Place, Bingley, Yorks', and that he was a: 'Native of Ryecroft,

Bingley.' There is still a memorial to Percy in Ryecroft (*see left*).



The Keighley News from 17th August 1918 displays his photograph on page 3, under 'Local Heroes of the War', stating: 'Gun Percy Naylor, of Harden (killed)'. It also reports: 'Bingley and District: News has been received that Gunner Percy Naylor (22), R F A, son of Mr Joseph Naylor, late of Ryecroft, Harden, has been killed by a shell while in action on July 27. He joined the forces in December, 1917, and was sent to France last April. In civil life he was employed as clerk in the office of Messrs J Steel and Sons,

spring makers, Harden.'

Percy is commemorated at Longueau British Cemetery, Somme, France.

## Archibald W Goodchild

Archibald William Goodchild, born in Tottenham, Middlesex, in 1893, was 18 in 1911, and is listed in the 1911 Census as living with his mother Amelia (a widow), sister Amelia (age 22) and brothers George (20) and Ernest (14) at 12 Giles Street, Bradford.

Archibald's occupation is listed as warehouseman in dress goods, presumably in one of the worsted mills in the Harden area, hence his name being included on the war memorial.

Archibald W Goodchild, Private 67053, of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment), 10th Battalion, died on 3rd January 1917 in the battle of Ancre of the Somme front.

Archibald is commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, France. (*see Arthur Waller also*).



## Thomas Connor

Thomas Connor is recorded in the 1911 Census as living at **7 Cliff Road, Harden**, with his widowed mother Mary, brothers Frank (aged 29) and John (aged 18), sisters Elizabeth (aged 23), Mary (aged 20) and Ellen (aged 14) and a boarder, John Kenny (19). However Thomas' mother is later quoted in the Keighley News as living at 4 Moor Edge, Harden. It appears that Cliff Road and Moor Edge may have been the same road (as the map of the time shows, Moor Edge led up to the cliff area). Born in 1895, Thomas was aged 16 at the time of the census, and employed at the spring works in Harden.

Thomas was a member of the Bingley Territorials and was called up at the outbreak of the war in 1914. He became Private T Connor, 307701, in the 2nd Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), and first went to France in April 1915. Thomas was killed in action on August 31st 1918.

The Keighley News from 21st September 1918 mentions his death on page 3 in an article under, 'Bingley and District: Mrs Connor, **4, Moor Edge, Harden**, has received official news that her son, Private Thomas Connor, (23), West Riding Regiment, was killed in action on August 31.....Before the war he was employed as a spring-maker by Messrs J Steel and Sons, Harden Spring Works.'

Thomas is commemorated at Vis-En-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, France.



## Thomas Watson

The only Thomas Watson on the 1911 Census for Harden was 9 years old, having been born in 1902, and he is still at school. His address is given as **The Square, Harden**, where he resided with his mother and father, Mary Ann and Mark, brother Christopher (aged 15) and sisters Adelaide (aged 13) and Katherine (aged 4).

War records show that a Private Thomas Watson, 11689, of the 2nd/7th Battalion, of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) died on 28th November 1917. If this is the same Tom Watson, then he would only have been 15 or 16 years old and therefore not old enough to even enlist in the army (the minimum age for recruitment was 18). However evidence suggests that many boys too young to enlist did indeed do so, and these 'boy soldiers' ended up dying as a consequence. 'Boy soldiers' fighting in the First World War remained a controversial issue throughout the war, and by the time the war had ended many thousands of youths too young to legally enlist had been either killed or wounded.

Tom is commemorated at Cambrai Memorial, Louveral, France. The Cambrai Memorial commemorates more than 7000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai in November and December 1917 and whose graves are not known.

## Alfred M Whitwham

Alfred Martin Whitwham, born in Bingley in 1893, is listed in the 1911 Census as living in Manchester and working as a pawnbroker's assistant. The CWGC notes that he was the son of Thomas and Jane Whitwham, of **Park View House, Beckfoot, Bingley**.

Alfred enlisted in Leeds into the Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery, and Driver Alfred Whitwham, 775839, died on 23rd July 1918, aged 26.

Alfred is commemorated at Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France.



## Robert Bertie Walker

Born in Kirkby-on-the-Moor, Yorkshire, in 1890, the 1911 Census lists Robert Bertie Walker as living at **Rose Cottage, Harden**, with his parents Thomas and Annie Elizabeth, sisters Mary Hannah (aged 26), Harriet (aged 20) and Hetty (aged 17), and brothers Thomas Henry (aged 14) and Fred (aged 11). At this time Bertie was 21 years of age and a foundry labourer at Steel's spring works in Harden.

Bertie was with the Bingley Territorials for four years prior to the war, and at the outbreak he enlisted as a driver in the Royal Field Artillery, later transferring into a Yorkshire infantry regiment. (*see bottom right*).

The Keighley News reports on 6th November 1915, page 10, that: 'Mr Thomas Walker, of Rose Cottage, Harden, has officially received notification that his son, Rifleman Robert Walker, of the British Expeditionary Force, has been missing since September 29. The last letter received from him by his parents on September 23 was from "somewhere in Belgium," when he stated he was in the best of health.' The paper also states that Bertie: 'has a younger brother - Private T H Walker - in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.' Bertie's brother, Thomas, appeared in the Keighley News also when he was wounded (*see top right*), but thankfully he survived the war.

Rifleman Robert Walker, S/11159, of the 9th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade was killed in action, aged 26, in Belgium on 25th September 1915 on the opening day of the Battle of Loos. The Battle of Loos was the largest British offensive mounted in 1915 on the Western Front during the First World War. Bertie's family did not receive official notification of his death until September 1916.

Bertie is commemorated at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. (*See James Wright also*).



WAYSIDE CROSS,  
HARDEN.



