

Remembered

Bramley, Rodley and Stanningley



LOTTERY FUNDED

Bramley War Memorial – About Us

Bramley War Memorial is a focal point for the community and a point of Remembrance for the fallen of Bramley, Rodley and Stanningley. Situated at the entrance to Bramley Park it proudly bears witness to the brave people of our area who fell from 1900 to 2011.

The Memorial is inscribed with 746 names including ages, honours awarded and date of death three from World Wars One and Two (including the only woman – Phyllis Austin – on the Memorial) and three from other conflicts.

In March 2017, we were recipients of the inaugural John Thorp award at the Leeds Architecture Awards.

Get Involved

Bramley War Memorial has a dual purpose – it remembers and commemorates local war heroes and stands as a testament to the community spirit and dedication that helped build it. All members of the public are invited to attend our AGM, get involved and consult with the Committee to help shape its future plans.

Email: bramleywm@aol.com

Website: www.bramleywarmemorial.com

Twitter: @bramleymemorial

War Graves Tidy Up

A group of local volunteers who tidy and maintain Bramley's forgotten war graves in their spare time meet in Bramley Baptist Churchyard on average every fortnight throughout the year.

Updates are posted on the Memories of Bramley Facebook page, on Twitter @bramleymemorial or email bramleywm@aol.com for more information.

Activities and events are also posted on our Memory Board opposite the Memorial.

This booklet has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and compiled by the Friends of a War Memorial for Bramley. It was edited by John Baron.

Remembering those who sacrificed everything



By Friends of a War Memorial for Bramley Chair Councillor Caroline Gruen

Reflecting on the consequences of war and honouring the bravery of those who fell in service is never easy, but it is a very important role for many in the community.

The wealth of research by volunteers of the Friends of a War Memorial for Bramley has resulted in many people in Bramley, Rodley and Stanningley learning more about their relatives' history.

The group has held several significant services and events at the war memorial since it's unveiling on 4 August 2014.

Hundreds of people attend the annual Remembrance Service. This is followed with an informal act of Remembrance, offering people an opportunity to reflect in the quiet and melancholy of the memorial in a more personal way.

We have honoured the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and also held a service in honour of the late Lance-Sergeant Fred McNess, whose incredible exploits you can read about in this booklet.

We have also unveiled new additional plaques at the memorial, produced our new Book of Remembrance, a leather-bound volume listing all the names on the memorial plaques and giving more information about each person's history and circumstances. This book, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is on display at Bramley Library for all to see. There's also an online version on our website.

I hope this booklet will highlight the incredible bravery and tragedy of local people across the many war conflicts. **We shall always remember them.**

Major Geoffrey Appleyard: Bramley's most decorated hero

Major Geoffrey Appleyard's heroic actions during the Second World War are rightly still celebrated today.

The courageous Bramley born son of local garage owner J.E.Appleyard, Major Appleyard was an adventurer in his youth.

He led from the front. Appleyard proved he had nerves of steel and was fearless in the face of adversity.

In 1941 he was awarded the Military Cross for his "services in the field" after a daring rescue to bring two secret service agents who'd been operating in France back to England, carried out by submarine and then dingy.

Numerous daring secret missions infiltrating enemy territory followed for the brave commando including sailing a converted Brixham trawler ("Maid Honor") to West Africa and stealing three enemy ships from under the eyes of their crews, this was the famous Operation Postmaster.

In December 1942, Appleyard had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order. At his third appearance at Buckingham Palace in 11 months King George was both amused and impressed and said: "What, you here again so soon?"

Appleyard took part in 17 raids in which landings were made on the enemy coast as well as crossing the Channel night after night before a landing could be affected.



It's said Appleyard and his colleagues may have jointly been the inspiration for author Ian Fleming (with whom they served) to create the world's most famous fictitious spy – James Bond himself.

Describing him, Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Popski Peniakoff said: "He was one of the few officers who had developed the technique of the small scale raid: the care he took of his men made him stand out among brother officers who were too excited by the prospect of adventure to think of anybody but their own selves."

He was 26 and second in command of the newly-created 2 SAS when his plane failed to return to its base following a mission in Sicily. He was possibly shot down by friendly fire.



A family memorial stands in the grounds of Bramley Baptist Church. He has no grave. His body was never recovered. He is remembered at the Cassino Memorial in Italy (panel 12) and in Linton Memorial Hall

But the tales of his incredible daring live on.

Lancastria tragedy hit Bramley

Four Bramley families were left grieving for their loved ones following the sinking of the HMT Lancastria off the coast of France in 1940.

The sinking of the Lancastria was the largest single ship loss of life in British maritime history, with estimates ranging between 3,000 and 5,800 fatalities.

Cunard liner Lancastria had been pressed into war service as a troopship and was anchored just outside the harbour of St Nazaire, Brittany, France on Monday, June 17, 1940. She was helping to evacuate thousands of British troops as the German army advanced through France, two weeks after the Dunkirk evacuations.

A lone German bomber sent four bombs plummeting towards the ship, two hitting the sea nearby, while one smashed through the dining salon, and the other, according to witnesses, went straight down the funnel and detonated in the engine room. The ship sank within just 15 minutes, trapping many in the lower decks.

Heavy loss of life also occurred amongst the hundreds floating around on the sea when enemy planes swept in to machine-gun the struggling mass of people in the water.

Among those who lost their lives locally were:

Private Herbert Patchett, aged 40, of the 50 Coy., Aux Mil Pioneer Corps. He was the husband of Nellie and his son, Arthur Felsted Patchett, died in Germany aged 21 in 1945.

Harry Quarmby, aged 32, of the 1/5 Bn Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). He was the son of Herbert and Jane Quarmby and the husband of Gladys.

Gunner Herbert Francis Underhill, aged 35, of 5 BTY. 2 H.A.A. Regt Royal Artillery. He was the son of Mr and Mrs William Underhill, husband of Kathleen.

George Fowler, 39, husband of Rose Fowler. He was an engineer in the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, building airports, roads and bridges. He was believed to be helping to rebuild the airport at Nantes.

Fowler's son, Ray, says his father left eight children behind. He remembers:

"Although we heard about the Lancastria in June, it was December 18 before we got the telegram. I was only very young at the time but I remember my mother at the kitchen table working. She'd pull this telegram out and start crying. She never mentioned that he died but I knew by the way she was crying. I still remember it as if it were yesterday."

Fowler is buried in the town of Les Sables d'Olonne in France where his body was washed up. He says bodies of the deceased washed up all along the west coast of France and were buried in towns and villages there.



Tragedy: The Lancastria's sinking cost thousands of lives.

Facts and Figures



Average age for local WW1 dead was 25 Years 10 Months.



Laurence Hector Kirk, 31, was one of three brothers to die in World War One. The son of Samuel and Alice Mary Kirk, of Bramley, Leeds and the brother of Leonard and John Edwin, he won the Military Medal and died of his wounds. Lawrence married Ada Barran in 1910 and they lived 25 South End Grove. He was an Electric Car Conductor.



Average age for local WW2 dead was 26 years 6 months.



Clarence Wrigglesworth was the first person from Rodley to be killed in World War One. His son Cyril was the first Rodley man to die in action in World War Two.



Herbert Chapman, 35, was a father of four, having married Elizabeth Ann Baxter in 1904 and was from Outgang, Bramley. He was a School Caretaker. His widow later married James W. Clark in 1919.



The Watmough brothers – Edmund, John and Victor – all died within 18 months of each other (1915, 1917 and 1918).



Nine Kirk brothers from Bramley served in World War One, three died.



Frank Boyes, who died on August 9, 1915 in Gallipoli, was the youngest casualty at the age of just 16.



Two local lads died on D-Day in World War Two, Jack Illingworth 20 and George William Tilley, 21.

Facts and Figures Continued



During the Battle of the Somme in 1916, 77 local men fell, including 26 who were killed on July 1st – the first day.



The youngest to fall on the Somme was William Hylbert Allum, 18, the son of Charles and Florence Allum, of Leigh House, Stanningley, Leeds.



The average age of death on the Somme was 25 years 6 months. Many had been in training since 1914 and formed part of Kitchener's New Army.



Frank Wentworth, 28, Durham Light Infantry, was the son of Hannah Wentworth, of 47, Westover Rd., Bramley, and the late Abraham Wentworth. He was a grocer. Born in Bramley, he enlisted 19/05/1915. His mother had his "Dead Man's Penny" inset into the gravestone.



The Memorial Plaque was issued after the First World to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. The plaques were made of bronze and hence popularly known as the "Dead Man's Penny", because of the similarity in appearance to the somewhat smaller penny coin. 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes of bronze, and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war.



Sergeant George William Pemberton, 36 who was a Cart Driver and lived at 63 Elder Road also won the Military Medal. Four Military Medals were awarded to our local fallen on the Somme and Fred Mc Ness was awarded the Victoria Cross.



Lance Sergeant William Conyers, 28, of 86 Westover Road Bramley, the son of Mrs. E. Conyers and the late John D Conyers, JP, enlisted on 3rd September 1914, reported Missing, presumed dead on 1st July, 1916. He was a Tramways Mechanic, his Father owned Waterloo Tannery



Private John Haley, 24, son of Mrs. Hannah Haley and Stead Haley of 289, Stanningley Rd., Bramley, Leeds was born in Cleckheaton. He was an Apprentice Electrical Engineer and also died on 1st July, 1916. He is remembered on the Memorial at St. Thomas, Stanningley.

Robert Haywood Jones - David Bowie's grandfather

When you look at Bramley War Memorial, the name of Robert H Jones may seem unremarkable - another local hero who gave his life for his country.

But 33050 Pte Jones, who died at the Somme in France aged 34 on 18 November 1916, also has another claim to fame. He's the grandfather of music legend David Bowie and his great grandson is film director and writer Duncan Jones whose films include Moon, Source Code and Warcraft.



Enlisting in a wave of patriotism, Pte Jones was a member of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Like many others who died in the muddy carnage, he has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme; this is a war memorial to 72,246 missing British Empire servicemen who died in the Battle of the Somme.

Jones lived in Town End House, Bramley, with his parents, three brothers and sisters and his maternal grandmother.

He had served in the British Expeditionary Force in France since September 1916 after enlisting in July that year.

At 6.10 on that cold dark November morning the 2nd Battalion of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry stormed through blinding snow up a ridge to try to capture the German trenches, about a mile north east of Beaumont Hamel. It was the very last engagement of the Somme campaign.

He was reported wounded and missing and was assumed to have been killed in action.

He fell, along with 364 comrades, a forgotten moment in the horror of the four-and-a-half month battle which claimed more than a million casualties.

Great War historian Bob Pike said: "He would have gone to war in part because his friends went. It was a massive outpouring of patriotism, many of them were older and may not have needed to volunteer but they did. He was a hero, as they all were."

His death was too much for his grief-stricken wife Zillah, and she died three months later just before Valentine's Day in 1917, her heart broken. She was just thirty years old. Her passing left their two children Roma, seven, and four-year-old Haywood Stenton – later known as John (Bowie's father) – orphaned.

He is remembered in the vestry at St Peter's Church, Bramley. St Andrew's Church in Rodley and Thiepval Memorial Pier.

Hirbin	Hudson,	34	21/03/1918
Isaac	Hudson,	26	02/05/1917
John	Hutchinson,	25	31/08/1918
Ryland	Hutchinson,	33	27/02/1917
Mark M.	Ives,	22	12/10/1918
Charles W.	Jackson,	21	27/03/1918
Harold	Janney,	28	23/11/1917
Mark Albert	Johnson,	24	23/04/1917
Sydney S.	Johnson,	23	12/08/1916
Ernest	Jones,	21	14/08/1918
George W.	Jones,	34	18/11/1916
Robert H.	Jones,	40	23/09/1917
Ellis	Jowett,	30	13/11/1918
Maurice	Keighley,	20	16/09/1916
Robert	Kemp,	18	26/04/1918
Percival W. J.	Kerr,	30	22/04/1917
Fred	King,	27	03/08/1918
James E.	Kirk,	21	14/08/1917
John W.	Kirk,	38	21/07/1916
Leonard	Kirk,	32	30/09/1918
Robert W.	Kirk,	27	09/10/1917
Joseph B.	Kitching,	19	21/06/1917
James	Knight,	19	27/11/1917
Willie	Lacey,	23	08/11/1918
William R.	Lawton,	24	14/07/1916
Christopher	Leaf,	22	04/05/1918
Hugh	Leaf,	21	05/05/1916
George W.	Leatham,	19	06/05/1915
Allan	Linfoot,	30	20/07/1918
Isaiah	Lister,	23	14/04/1918
Tom	Lister,	32	17/12/1918
Wilfrid	Lister,	25	26/06/1915
William	Lockwood,	20	20/11/1917
Arnold V.	Longbottom,	27	06/11/1914

Panel 2 (left facing) of Bramley War Memorial with inscription to Robert H. Jones.

Fred McNess VC – a brave but troubled man

Bramley war hero Lance-Sergeant Fred McNess is the only serving military person from West Leeds to receive a Victoria Cross (VC). The cross is the most prestigious award for gallantry that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces, was hailed for his 'most conspicuous bravery' during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

He was awarded the VC when he held the line despite suffering severe injuries to his neck, jaw and shoulder.

McNess, of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards led his men despite being surrounded by heavy machine gun fire.



The Victoria Cross citation reads: "On 15 September 1916 near Ginchy, France, during a period of severe fighting, Lance-Sergeant McNess led his men with great dash in the face of heavy shell and machine-gun fire."

"When the first line of the enemy trenches was reached, it was found that the left flank was exposed and that the enemy were bombing down the trench."

"Sergeant McNess thereupon organised and led a counter-attack and, although he was very severely wounded in the neck and jaw, did not give up."

"Finally, he established a 'block' and continued encouraging his men and throwing bombs until exhausted by loss of blood."

The severe nature of his wounds and resulting medical procedures in which two of his ribs were used to rebuild his jaw and face left McNess in lifelong pain, which eventually led him to take his own life on May 4, 1956, at the age of 64. His VC is displayed in the Scots Guards museum in London.

Serving and former members of the Scots Guards, Standard Bearers, Pipers and relatives of Fred McNess from across the UK attended a Commemoration at Bramley War Memorial on September 15th 2016 to acknowledge the centenary of the action where he was awarded his Victoria Cross

He is also remembered in Bournemouth Crematorium and North Cemetery, and on a plaque outside Leeds Art Gallery.



*Remembrance: The service was led by the Rev Paul Crabb.
Fred's grandson Michael Morris unveils the commemorative stone on
Thursday, September 15th 2016 with Scots Guards forming a Guard of Honour.*

Father and son's tragic coincidence

A Rodley father and son have a tragic coincidence in common.

Clarence Wigglesworth was the first person from Rodley to be killed in World War One. His son Cyril was the first Rodley man to die in action in World War Two.

Private Clarence died aged 30 on the 8 November 1914. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and is buried at the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing. The war memorial in Ypres, Belgium, is dedicated to the soldiers who were killed in the Ypres Salient of World War One and whose graves are unknown.

The First Battle of Ypres was part of the First Battle of Flanders, where German, French, Belgian and British troops fought from Arras in France to Nieuport on the Belgian coast, from 10 October to mid-November.

Clarence, who lived on Bagley Lane and worked at an iron foundry, was called up the first day after war was declared in 1914.

He left three children: Irene, who later worked in Springfield Mills, and Clifford, who later ran a grocers in Harehills Lane.

Clarence's son, Cyril, was barely five months old when his father died. But at the dawn of the Second World War he followed in his father's footsteps – and tragically lost his life while serving his country.

Cyril, a butcher, served with the 2nd Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He never got off the beach at Dunkirk, where he was waiting to be evacuated.

He was buried at Honsschoote Communal Cemetery after his death, even younger than his father aged 26, on 31 May 1940.

Nancy Wood (nee Mitchell) said she was very close to Cyril's mum Margaret (Maggie). She still remembers the day Maggie received a telegram informing her of her son's death:

Samuel W.	Walsh,	29	29/01/1944
Allan G.	Watson,	22	07/01/1942
Arthur	Watson,	36	25/07/1947
Colin	Webster,	20	17/02/1945
Richard	Weddall,	23	02/08/1942
George R.	Wetherill,	25	28/06/1943
Ben	Wheelhouse,	20	31/07/1943
Arthur	Whitehead,	21	09/03/1944
Ernest	Whittaker,	35	13/02/1941
Arthur E.	Whitwell,	27	14/09/1944
Clarence	Wigglesworth,	30	08/11/1914
Cyril	Wigglesworth,	26	31/05/1940
Harry	Wilby,	22	13/02/1944
Robert H.	Wild,	39	29/03/1945
James	Woods,	35	14/02/1942
Jack	Wright,	20	18/07/1944
Later Conflicts and additions			
First Name:	Last Name:	Age	Date of Death
William	Bayliss,	20	28/09/1918
Jesse	Stead DCM,	18	18/12/1918
Geoffrey	Boodle MM,	24	04/01/1945
Jack	Broadhead,	26	10/09/1943
Edward	Kirby,	31	22/12/1942
Alfred L.	Latto,	18	28/05/1940
Sheldon L. J.	Steel,	20	27/11/2011

Father and son on Panel 4 (right hand side) of the Memorial

"I remember Auntie Maggie, as I used to call her, waiting for me at the top of the road. I was going that way because it was my very first day at school. She had got the telegram [of Cyril's death] and told me to go and get my mum to go and see her. I still remember that day. I can still see her stood at the top of that road, waiting for me.

"She went on to live to a good age. During the war she took in three Canadian Airforce men. After the war they paid for her to go to Canada three times. They always kept in touch and one of them came over for her funeral."

Maggie lived off Wesley Street in Rodley.

Cyril's name is also on the memorial from St Andrew's in Rodley, now in the Vestry of St. Peter's, Hough Lane, Bramley

The size of the surnames denotes how often they appear on the Memorial



One of 27 who died in Italy in both World Wars



Memorial to Lance Corporal Bernard Bullock, aged 24, died 20th September, 1944, Italy. Bullock died during fighting in Coriano, Italy. Pictured above is a temporary memorial erected shortly after fighting in the area. Born in Bramley, he was the son of George and Evelyn and was a member of the Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), Royal Armoured Corps. He is remembered at Zion Baptist Chapel in Bramley, Bramley St Peter's Church vestry, St Andrew's Memorial in Rodley and Coriano Ridge War cemetery.



William Midgley: Rugby League and football tragedy

Lance Corporal George William Midgley was well known in local sporting circles, playing for both Bramley Northern Union rugby league club and Stanningley Football Club.

He was shot in the head and tragically died aged 26 in the first months of World War One, at Ypres on 26th October, 1914. He was buried in the trenches with six other men.

Newspaper reports from November 1914 say the flag at Bramley's game against Hunslet Parkside at Barley Mow flew at half-mast to remember him.

He was the son of Ernest Mark Midgley and Elizabeth Hampshire Midgley of Brickfield Place, Stanningley and was unmarried. In 1911 he was living at 27 Vermont Street, Bramley. He worked as a striker in a foundry.

Black arm bands were worn by 2,000 spectators when Bramley played Hunslet shortly afterwards.

Midgley, of the 1st Bn The King's (Liverpool Regiment) has no known grave and is remembered on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 4 and 6 and at St Thomas's, Stanningley.

Yorkshire Evening Post, 28th November, 1914.

BRAMLEY FOOTBALLER KILLED IN ACTION.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Midgley, Brickfield Place, Stanningley, have received official intimation that their eldest son, George W. Midgley, was killed in action at Ypres on October 26. He was a lance-corporal in the 1st King's Liverpool Rifles.

According to a letter received a few days ago from Private Charles Parsons, a comrade of Midgley, the latter was shot in the head and succumbed to his injuries in five minutes. He was buried in the trenches with six other men, including an officer. Midgley was well known in football circles, having played for the Bramley Northern Union Club, and also for the Stanningley Football Club. He was unmarried. A younger brother, Thomas Ernest Midgley, is a private in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

A letter from the front line

War can tear families apart. The Barran family of Stanningley bore witness to this tragedy in World War One when two brothers lost their lives.

Irwin Barran was just 19 when he fell in France on 29 December 1915. The Private in the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) is remembered in Wimereux Communal Cemetery.

His brother, Private Herbert Panton Barran was a member of the 2nd Bn Irish Guards who died on 29 March 1918 aged 19. He's remembered at Doullens Communal Cemetery.



From his enlistment records when he was 17 years old and 10 months, we can see Herbert worked as a labourer at I. Gaunts Mill.

They were the sons of John Barber Barran and Sarah Ellen Barran, of Oakroyd Mount, Stanningley

Here's a letter written by Irwin to his father barely a month before his death in November 1915:

Dear Dad,

Just a few more lines to you hoping they find you all in the best of health and spirits as it leaves me at ----(word unreadable)

I expect you will have got my green envelope by now in answer to your letter dated Oct 30 in which I told you I had received your parcel.

I have a fine letter + parcel from Fred Carrick and I am writing back to thank him for it. I was glad to hear that Herbert is nearly better and I am sure he will not be sorry to get back to work. I believe you know Frank Law, he was in our 'D' company and was wounded last week. He lives in Stanningley so you might see him. I saw Bob Firth yesterday and he's going home on pass and he is going to call and see you.

I will send a few lines to Miss'es Petty as soon as soon as I have time to spare. I think it is good of them. I wish you would tell Mother to drop me a few lines as I have not heard from her for a long time. I will now close Dad, hope you are all in the Pink.

With Best love to all + Caller Staps + Co

Your Loving Son

Irwin



Centre Images:

Top: Irwin's Medals, Below: Herbert's Medals

Both brothers were awarded the "Silver" War Medal and the "Gold" Victory Medal.

Irwin was awarded the 1914-15 Star.

Right Image: Remembrance Plaques for both brothers and Scroll for Herbert.

“The telegram was something everybody dreaded”

Ernest Harper paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country, laying down his life in Italy just as the Allies were gaining ground across Europe.

Trooper Harper had lived on Outgang Lane in Bramley and was working at the textile manufacturer Yates Mill Lodge on Broad Lane, with his two sisters, when he went to war.

He served as a trooper with the Green Howards in the Royal Armoured Corps but died aged just 21 on 27th August, 1944, in Arezzo, Italy, where he is buried. He was a dispatch rider and was believed to have been shot dead by a German plane while riding his bike.



An oil lad and bobbin liggin' at Yates's Mill in Bramley and the son of Bernard John Harper (a one-armed bricklayer who lost his arm fighting in the trenches in World War One) and Lily Harper, of Bramley.

He is survived by a brother, Pat, who lives in Pudsey. He said Ernest was a veteran of Africa and Italy campaigns. He said: "I remember he came home on leave and in those days they had to bring home their kit and their rifle. Me and my brother Tony took turns to carry his rifle with a lad called Larry Sheard who was his mate from Armley.

"We got to the Sandford Pub at the top of Brewery Hill, Broad Lane and he told us to 'bugger off home to mum as she'd be worried sick'. That was the last time we saw him. I was 11 at the time. It doesn't seem like 73 years ago."

Ernest was initially buried in an orchard in Florence and after the war they moved him to Aresso.

"When my mum got the telegram she collapsed in front of me and Tony. She already knew because she had not had any letters in a while. The telegram was something everybody dreaded, I remember having to pick her up.

"I then had to go to the mill to get the girls. I was very young at the time. It was devastating."

Ernest's commanding officer George Trollope wrote his mum a letter. It said:

"... He was a grand chap and so full of life. His work was beyond praise and he never [complained] about anything. He is in a grave well cared for."



Faith: Ernest Harper had his rosary beads with him when he died.



Bravery: Ernest Harper's medals demonstrate his courage.

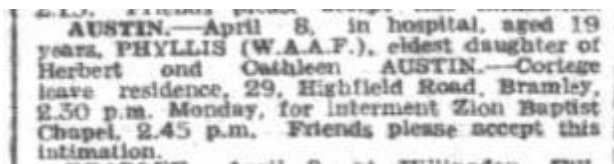
Phyllis Austin – the only woman on the memorial

Bramley War Memorial is inscribed with 746 names. 535 of these names are from World War One, 208 from World War Two (including the only woman, Phyllis Austin) and the rest from other conflicts.

Aircraftswoman second class Austin, from Bramley, was just 19 when she died on the eighth of April 1943.

Austin was a member of the 467 (Royal Australian Air Force) Squadron, which was based at RAF Bottesford in Leicestershire. She was a cook at the base when there was a severe outbreak of Diphtheria in April 1943, part of a European wide epidemic with one million cases reported and 50,000 deaths

A number of service people were infected at RAF Bottesford, but Austin was the only fatality and died in Leeds Isolation Hospital. Due to the outbreak there was no representation from her Squadron at her funeral.



AUSTIN.—April 8, in hospital, aged 19 years, PHYLLIS (W.A.A.F.), eldest daughter of Herbert and Kathleen AUSTIN.—Cortege leave residence, 29, Highfield Road, Bramley, 2.30 p.m. Monday, for interment Zion Baptist Chapel, 2.45 p.m. Friends please accept this intimation.

Austin has a white Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone and is buried close to family members in Bramley Baptist Churchyard. She was the daughter of Herbert and Kathleen Austin, of 29 Highfield Street, Bramley.

Phyllis's grave with furniture produced and placed by West Leeds Academy, November 2015 on all the War & Remembered Graves in Bramley Baptist Churchyard.



The 'lost' war graves of St Peter's



In the late 1970's the vast majority of headstones were removed in St Peter's Churchyard, Hough Lane, Bramley, LS13 3NE.

Although the graves remain and are being mapped by volunteers, there is no visible sign as to where they are.

Around the same time a memorial wall was erected which lists the 18 official war graves. Records of many other graves that carried names and tributes to those who died in World War One are still being found.

The graves include a man who died of "shell shock" in Wakefield Asylum and another when his ship exploded with around 350 killed.

Sapper 98529 Fred - Frederick George Elmer - joined the 223rd Field Company and was later in the 126th Field Company, Royal Engineers. He died 23rd February 1920 aged 39 years.

He lived on Broad Lane and latterly Albert Square but died at Wakefield Asylum. He had an elder brother John born in Shipley and elder sister Lavinia born at Bramley. Others are listed as Jack, Charles and Charlotte Spencer.

His wife Clara Elmer nee Lake was in receipt of an Army pension, so his death must have been attributed to the war. He also had a CWGC gravestone. Having died in Wakefield Asylum it is assumed he had shell shock.

They had 4 children, Winifred born in 19/01/1911, Ronald born 20/08/1912, Hetty born 04/11/1914 and Edna born 12/02/1917.

After his death his widow Clara received a war pension of 26/8d (£1.32) a week and 29/6d (£1.54) a week for the each of the four children.

Sheldon Steel – Afghanistan hero

Rifleman Sheldon Steel was a big Bramley lad - all 6ft 4in of him - with an even bigger heart.

Steel, who was just 20 years old, was on foot patrol in the Helmand province in Afghanistan on Sunday 27 November 2011.

The gentle giant was caught in the fallout from an improvised explosive device.



Rifleman Steel had been in Afghanistan for just over a month, his unit having been deployed in October. Rifleman Steel was undoubtedly a rising star in the Army – he had been awarded the title of ‘Top Dog’, an honour bestowed on the best rifleman of Delta Dogs, as D Company 5 Rifles are known.

He left behind his mother Wendy, sisters Cody and Carys, brother Kameron, and nephews and niece Michael Sheldon Edwards, Oliver David Edwards and Emmi Joyce Edwards.

Mum Wendy said:

“He was very generous and very athletic – he’d do anything for anybody. He wasn’t a ‘fighter’ fighter, he was a likeable lad, he used to help other young people get involved in sports at school and keep them out of trouble. He used to be a positive influence and worked at a gym in Lowtown, Pudsey, where he had lots of friends.”

Wendy said Steel had always dreamed of going into the army, and started in the cadets aged just 12.

"He wanted to help his country, that was always what he wanted to do. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his grandad, William Steel, who was known as Marshall – he was in the army for over 22 years," added Wendy.

It's often said that grief is like an ocean: sometimes it's calm and manageable; sometimes it comes over you in waves and is unmanageable. More than five years after Steel's passing, mum Wendy finds his loss painful.

"I just have to learn to live with it day to day. There isn't a day goes by when I don't think of him."

Lt Col Tom Copinger-Symes, commanding officer, 5th Battalion The Rifles, said of Steel's death: "He truly was a special blend of physical robustness, sharp intellect, old-fashioned politeness, and natural leadership flair – all underscored by a quiet confidence and understated ambition."

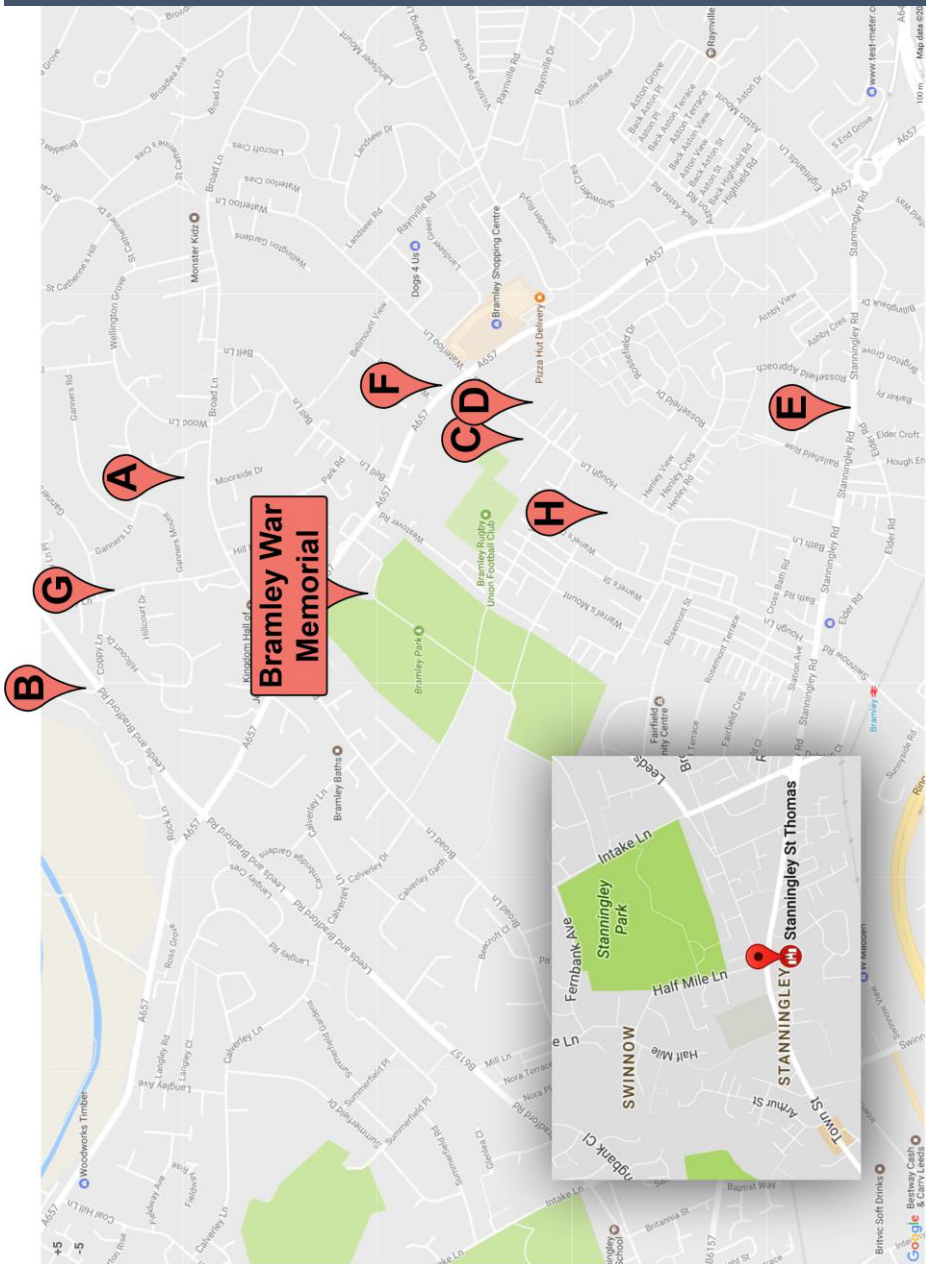
5 Rifles have formally adopted Bramley War Memorial and attended the 2015 and 2016 Remembrance Sunday Services with the Commanding Officer laying a wreath.



Other Memorials of Bramley, Rodley and Stanningley

- A.** Bramley Trades and Social Club - Plaque
The Villagers Community Club, 340 Broad Lane, Leeds LS13 2HF
- B.** Conservative Club, Bramley - Roll of Honour
The Rock Pub, 458 Leeds & Bradford Road, Leeds LS13 1EP
- C.** Liberal Club Bramley - Roll of Honour
Hollies Sports and Social Club, 12 Hough Lane, Leeds LS13 3NE
- St. Thomas Church Stanningley - Memorial
Town Street, Stanningley Road, Leeds LS28 6NB
- D.** Memorial from St Andrew's Church at Rodley now placed
In the vestry, St. Peter's Church, Hough Lane, Leeds LS13 3JF
- D.** St Peter's Church Bramley - Memorial
In the vestry, St. Peter's Church, Hough Lane, Leeds LS13 3JF
- E.** Robson & Ellis Funeral Directors - Plaque
435 Stanningley Road, Leeds, LS13 4BL
- F.** Trinity Brunswick Bramley - Plaque; Trinity Methodist Church Bramley - Plaque
Trinity Moriah Bramley - Plaque
All at Trinity Methodist Church Upper Town Street, Bramley, Leeds LS13 2EP
- G.** St Margaret's Church - Roll of Honour, Newlay Lane, Bramley Leeds LS13 2AJ
- United Methodist Church Rodley - Roll of Honour
Now placed in Calverley Methodist Church, Town Gate, Calverley, Leeds LS28 5NF
- | | |
|--|----------------|
| Bramley Baptist - Memorial Board | Online only* |
| Ebenezer Wesleyan Chapel - Roll of Honour | Online only* |
| Hough End Primitive Methodists - Plaque, Swinnow, Leeds | Online only* |
| Stanningley Wesleyan Chapel - Memorial | Online only* |
| Salem Baptist – Stained Glass Window | Online only* |
| St. Thomas Churchyard War Graves (address above) | Open to public |
| D. St. Peter's Churchyard Screen Wall (address above) | Open to public |
| H. Bramley Baptist Graveyard War & Remembered Graves
Hough Lane, Leeds LS13 3RD. | Open to public |
- * Email bramleywm@aol.com for a copy or visit www.bramleywarmemorial.com

The Memorials of Bramley, Rodley and Stanningley



“In everlasting memory of
brave Bramley, Rodley and
Stanningley people who gave
their lives in pursuit of peace –
we shall not forget ...”



*Book of Remembrance at Bramley Library. Hough Lane,
Leeds, LS13 3ND.*

Bramley War Memorial, is located at Moorfields,
Leeds, LS13 3JZ.

This DVD contains:

Building the Memorial, The Unveiling Ceremony – 4th August 2014, A year in the life of Bramley War Memorial 2016, Book of Remembrance, “Not Forgotten” Film and the World War One Postcards of Harold Harper.



Private Ernest Ackroyd, 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, son of Joe Ackroyd, 4 Peel Place, Stanningley. Died aged 31, 8th July 1916
Remembered on Thiepval Memorial, France
Remembered at our Somme Centenary Service, 1st July, 2016

List of countries where local heroes fell ...

afghanistan algeria **belgium** britain
died-at-sea egypt faroe-islands
france germany ghana gibraltar greece
hong-kong iceland iraq israel italy libya malta
mayanmar netherlands norway singapore
south-africa tanzania tunisia turkey

**“When you go home tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow we gave our today.”**