



# Giggleswick-in-Craven Church

After Evensong on Advent Sunday,

**NOVEMBER 30th,**

The Vicar will discourse on his recent visit to the Battlefield Area of Belgium and offer an appreciation of that Christian Patriot, H. E. Cardinal Mercier.

*Ostend, Nieuport, Furnes, Poperinghe, Ypres, Paschendale, Langemark, Forest of Houthulst, Dixmude, Zeebrugge, Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Malines, Louvain, Brussels, Mons.*

Special Offertory, if you please, towards the Proposed Memorial Chapel in commemoration of our fallen heroes.

R.I.P.

*J. W. Lambert, Printer, Settle.*

### Settle's War Memorial.

The Committee have recently issued a letter of appeal giving particulars of the obelisk it is proposed to erect in the Market Place, Settle, on the site of the present fountain. It will have bronze tablets, inset, bearing the names of the fallen. The secondary scheme is to purchase, or rent, according to the state of the fund, a playground for the children. Many other sites for the obelisk have been suggested and discussed, but the Committee feel sure that the old Market Place, with its picturesque setting and historical interest, will be accepted by the majority as the most suitable place for this token of respect and admiration of the men of Settle who have given their lives for their country.

The plans of the memorial have been placed before Mr. Walter Morrison, and in a letter to the treasurer, in which he enclosed a generous donation, he says, "I quite approve of the site and of the Memorial. I certainly cannot suggest anything better." The amount received to date is £176, and further donations may be handed in at any of the local banks.

### STAINFORTH.

#### WAR MEMORIAL.

On Thursday evening, January 29th, a public meeting was held in the Schoolroom. The room was well filled by parishioners. Mr. George Lund was appointed chairman.

The Vicar (Rev. J. Gaskell Exton) announced that he had collected from outside friends of the village the sum of £70 6s. and that the brass memorial tablet in memory of those from the village who had lost their lives for King and country was in the hands of the engravers, would probably be completed in about six weeks' time, and dedicated, he hoped, by the new Bishop, Dr. Perowne, in the church.

The Chairman said there was about £50 left and that the inhabitants would be asked to subscribe towards any memorial that meeting decided on.

After some discussion it was agreed to erect a stone obelisk, bearing the names of all who went to the war, with as rugged a base as possible and to be fixed on the rocky shubbery in front of the Hollies. If that site could not be obtained from Capt. J. Stackhouse, then the one near the church gates.

It was also agreed that a representative from each family where one had fallen, as well as the returned soldiers, be added to the committee.

Mr. Tomlinson urged that the Reading Room be made into a War Memorial, but the majority were not in favour of it.

Mr. Hackblock showed a very nice design, sketched by Mr. G. Wilson, of a soldier standing with fixed bayonet on a pedestal.

The pedestal with a rocky base met with some approval, but not the soldier on it as both were considered too costly. Votes of thanks to the Chairman ended the meeting.

Jan 1920

### LANGCLIFFE.

A Lantern Lecture on "Egypt" was given in the Institute on Tuesday evening last by Mr. D. Mackenzie. The proceeds were for the War Memorial Fund.

War Memorial.—A parish meeting, presided over by Mr. Wm. Hunter, was held in the National Schools on Monday evening, 4th January, to receive the recommendations of the committee as to the form the War Memorial should take. Two designs were submitted for a pillar to stand in the centre of the Fountain, one plain and the other surmounted by a cross. The feeling of the meeting was that the choice should be left to the relatives of the fallen, and on the proposition of Dr. Atkinson, seconded by Mr. J. West, the "Cross" design was adopted.

### SETTLE.

#### RETURNED SOLDIERS ENTERTAINED.

The Executive Council of the North Ribblesdale Habitation of the Primrose League entertained their returned soldier members at the Conservative Club on Monday evening last. The proceedings commenced with a tea, each soldier member having been invited to bring a lady friend, and there was an excellent response. After tea followed a whist drive with songs and dancing, to which all members of the Habitation were invited. Excellent prizes were given in connection with the "drive," the winners being: Ladies—Mrs. Davidson, 2 Miss Wood, travelling prize Mrs. Davidson, booby prize Mrs. H. Simpson; men—M. Patchett, 2 J. Burton, booby prize, M. Shuttleworth. The ex-soldier prizes were won by Mr. J. Holmes and Mr. E. Clark for the highest and lowest scores respectively. Musical items were given by Miss A. Close, Miss Clark and Miss M. Lee and Messrs. Edmondson and Butler.

Mr. G. K. Charlesworth presided, welcomed back the soldiers to their home life, and expressed the gratitude of all for the services they had so ungrudgingly given, Mr. John Moore supporting. During one of the intervals each returned soldier member was presented with the Primrose League War Service Badge, the presentations being made by Mrs. Birkbeck, of Carrholme, in the absence of Miss Stansfield, Ruling Councillor, who was unable to attend through illness.

Miss Wilson (the secretary), who throughout the War has done excellent work in connection with the raising of funds for War objects and the supply of soldiers' comforts, was presented with the Primrose League War Badge, and also with a good necklet chain and pearl pendant as a token of the members' esteem and acknowledgment of the services she has for many years rendered to the Habitation as secretary. Refreshments were served at intervals, and dancing was kept up until 2 a.m. to the strains of Horner's Band. The Committee are to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements made and the manner in which they were carried out.

Feb 1920

War Trophy.—The Secretary to the West Riding of York County Association has sent an intimation to Mr. T. E. Pearson (clerk to the Settle Rural District Council) that a captured German 4" howitzer, with carriage, has been allocated to the town of Settle by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and is being despatched from Leeds.



**Zion Congregational Church,  
SETTLE.**

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**On SUNDAY, November 30th, 1919,  
at 2 p.m.**

**A Memorial Service**

*(in Memory of those who fell in the Great War)*

Will be conducted by the Pastor (**Rev. L. J. MALKINSON**).

ADDRESS BY THE

**Rev. R. Shipman, M.A.** (of Long Preston),  
Late Chaplain to H.M. Forces.

**R. N. Douglas, Esq., M.A.,**  
Head Master of Giggleswick School, will also take part.

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**A MEMORIAL TABLET**

Erected to Commemorate the Services and Patriotism of the Associates  
of Zion Church and Sunday School, who served in the War, and to  
perpetuate the memory of those who fell.

WILL BE UNVEILED BY

**Lieut.-Colonel J. Birkbeck.**

# Zion Congregational Church, Settle.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 1919,

At 2 p.m.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

and UNVEILING of TABLET.

1914.

I. H. S.

1919.

### THIS TABLET

WAS ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE  
THE SERVICES AND PATRIOTISM  
— OF THE MEN OF —  
THIS CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL  
— WHO SERVED IN —  
THE + GREAT + WAR  
AND TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY  
OF ALL THOSE DEAR TO US,  
WHOSE NAMES ARE WRITTEN  
IN OUR HEARTS; WHO WENT OUT  
AND CAME NOT BACK.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ZION CHURCH.

On Sunday afternoon last a very impressive memorial service and the unveiling of a tablet took place in the above church. The tablet has been fixed at the opposite side of the church to the one erected to the memory of the Rev. Benjamin Waugh. There was a good congregation, including a number of Comrades, and the service was conducted by the Rev. L. J. Malkinson. After the Introit, Prayer and Lord's Prayer, and the hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," Mr. R. N. Douglas, M.A., of Giggleswick School, read the Scripture lesson which was taken from St. John xiv. Then followed special prayers and responses, after which the Rev. R. Shipman, M.A., Vicar of Long Preston, and late Chaplain to the Forces, gave an address, taking as his text the first two verses of the 12th chapter of St Paul's epistle to the Hebrews.

After a hymn, Lieut.-Col. Birkbeck was asked to unveil the tablet. Col. Birkbeck thanked the members of the congregation for the honour they had done him in asking him to unveil the memorial. It was just over a hundred years since his great-grandfather had helped to raise money to build that chapel. If those they had come there to honour that day could send a message it would be something of this kind: "We have given our lives for our friends and for our country. We do not begrudge that. What we ask is to see that we have not died in vain." Whatever their lives had been in the past he thought they had made good by the supreme sacrifice they had made for their friends and their country. What more could a man do?

Col. Birkbeck then unveiled the tablet, which reads as follows:—

1914. I.H.S. 1919.

THIS TABLET  
was erected to commemorate  
the services and patriotism  
of the men of  
this Church and Sunday School who  
served in  
THE GREAT WAR  
and to perpetuate the memory  
of all those dear to us  
whose names are written  
in our hearts, who went out  
and came not back.

The tablet is of brass, in keeping with that to the memory of the Rev. Benjamin Waugh, with raised letters.

In addition to the tablet a list of the names of the Associates of the Church and Sunday School who served in the War on vellum framed in dark oak is being prepared, and is to be placed in the vestibule of the church. The ceremony concluded with the singing of "Peace, perfect peace," and the Benediction.

STORIES OF NORTH-COUNTRY  
TROOPS.XLVIII.—6TH DUKE OF  
WELLINGTON'S.

## AN EVENTFUL FIGHTING CAREER.

## BRILLIANT CLIMAX IN 1918.

The 1-6th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, which has had a long and highly creditable existence as a Volunteer and Territorial unit, went through the war with acknowledged distinction, serving the whole time in the 49th Division, and taking part in every kind of fighting on the Western Front from April, 1915, up to the signing of the armistice. On the outbreak of hostilities, the battalion—whose personnel was drawn from Skipton, Settle, Ingleton, Barnoldswick, Keighley, Haworth, Bingley, and Guiseley—was under the command of Lieut.-Colonel John Birbeck. The unit was first stationed at Immingham, but when orders were received to go to France it was in training at Doncaster. Embarking with other units of the division on April 14th, the battalion landed at Boulogne, and entrained for Merville in Flanders, from which place they marched into action in front of Fleurbaix, within a fortnight of landing.

## YORKSHIRE TENACITY AT YPRES.

In the battle of May 9th, a good many casualties were suffered, chiefly from shell-fire, and the bombardment experienced on that day, though it was a trivial affair compared with the great organised concentrations of gun-fire in the later stages of the war, appeared at the time a terrible event. Going to the Ypres salient in the late summer, the men of the 6th Dukes, who were at this time badly in need of renewed clothing, held a sector of the front north of Ypres, being a unit of the 147th Infantry Brigade, which was stationed between the 146th and 148th Brigades. They here suffered their first casualties from trench mortar bombs, for which no soldier has ever been known to express affection. On September 25th the Dukes had their revenge, when, under cover of a smoke barrage, they went forward and slung phosphorus and other bombs into the enemy trenches, doing considerable damage to the parapets, and putting the Germans into a satisfactory state of fear and confusion. The inevitable retaliation levelled an important communication trench on our side, and added much to the difficulties of "carrying on" in this uncomfortable sector.

It was about this time, too, that the trenches began to crumble and disappear in the autumn floodings, and accentuated the misery of life both in the line and just behind it. In the meantime, Lieut.-Colonel Birbeck had been invalided home, and Lieut.-Colonel Adlercron, who had been a brigade major in one of the Midland divisions, took command on September 25, and proved himself a fine fighting soldier. The battalion did some good work in the gas attack on December 19, though casualties were again numerous, and before they went out of action at the end of the year the ranks dwindled to about 200. On the way out to the rest area, the brigade was addressed in the square at Wormhoudt by General Plumer, the Army Commander, who specially complimented the battalion on their tenacity and courage.

## "TRENCH-SNATCHING" ON THE SOMME.

About the end of January, 1916, the unit was transferred to the Amiens area, and had a short period in the line at Autherville, besides digging new trenches and repairing old ones. Here for the first time the men met with deep dug-outs, excavated in the solid chalk, which became so familiar a feature of the Somme warfare. On June 6, Lieut.-Colonel Adlercron was entrusted with a brigade, and the command of the battalion went to Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Bateman. Shortly afterwards the unit was strengthened by a draft of 500 men from the base, and the night before the great offensive the newly recruited battalion marched from Warloy up to the assembly trenches in Aveluy Wood. For eight weeks officers and men were in the thick of the fighting in front of Thiepval, and afterwards they went into the Leipzig salient. They were not engaged in any large attack, but joined in

several bouts of what is sometimes known as "trench-snatching." Almost immediately before the successful attack on Thiepval itself, the 6th Dukes were withdrawn, and moved north into the Hannecamp sector, from there sidestepping south to Fonquevillers, where much-needed repair work was done to trenches that were in an uninhabitable condition, the water in places being up to a man's neck. The delights of this occupation were varied by the vigorous trench-mortaring tactics employed by the enemy.

## A SERGEANT'S FINE EXPLOIT.

The Christmas of 1916 was spent in rest at Halloy, and in the new year the battalion returned to the front at Birles-au-Bois, and afterwards at Riviere. The conditions were pleasant, while the cold weather held, but when the thaw set in the area became a mass of glutinous mud. It was in this sector that a very daring act was performed by Sergeant Berry, known throughout the battalion, as "Jim." One night the Germans raided our trenches. They did no damage, made no prisoners, and were seemingly so scared that they withdrew before they could be met in combat, leaving behind them only two automatic pistols and a small compass. It was decided to retaliate by giving the enemy something better than he had attempted. Accordingly a few nights later Sergeant Berry and an adventurous party of nine other ranks from "D" Company crept out of a sap-head, crossed No Man's Land, broke through the enemy wire and surprised the Germans in their trenches, while a relief was taking place. Berry himself actually got behind some Germans; he killed two who suddenly appeared out of the darkness, and when the noise startled a number of the enemy in their own sap-head into showing themselves, the British party engaged them with bombs, and in a few minutes utterly silenced them. Sergeant Berry counted a number of dead Germans lying about, and concluding that there was nobody left to slay in this corner of the battlefield, he proceeded to withdraw his party.

This, however, was a difficult and dangerous task, as the German front line had by this time been thoroughly roused, and machine-gun and rifle fire made the re-passage of No Man's Land a gamble with death. With the exception of one man named Scott, who was caught in the wire, the sergeant successfully withdrew all his men. But this was not quite the end of the story. Just after dawn the next morning the watchful Berry was peering over the top, when he saw a man suddenly rise above one of the German trenches, and run like a hare for about forty yards towards our line before dropping into a shell-hole. Presently he left this temporary refuge and raced faster still straight into our lines. The sprinter was Private Scott, who had been taken prisoner, but who had given his escort the slip in a communication trench, while their backs were momentarily turned. He made a bee-line over the top, and he still lives to tell the story. One is sorry to relate that the gallant sergeant was killed some time afterwards.

## "CHAMPION NAVVIES" OF THE ARMY.

In the spring and early summer of 1917 the 6th Duke's were at Neuve Chapelle, helping to train the Portuguese infantry, "who knew nothing on earth about soldiering"—declares a British commanding officer—"and who hadn't a pull-through or an oil bottle among them, and whose rifles were all crammed with mineral jelly just as they were issued from the manufacturers." A short period in front of Laventie, in attachment to the 146th Brigade, was followed by a tropically hot march to the sector in front of Bethune, where the battalion made acquaintance with the marvellous system of underground tunnels which was the great feature of this part of the front. They held three craters and dug hard to make connecting trenches; indeed, the battalion, like some other units of the 49th Division, had by now come to regard themselves as the champion navvies of the British Army. While they were here the 2nd Buffs, of the 6th Division, did a big German-killing raid on the right, and the 6th Duke's received most of the retaliation. Captain S. P. Stoker (R.A.M.C.) on the same day caught what he thought was a spy in the suspicious guise of a French civilian, but he turned out to be a patriotic miner, who had been so wrought upon by the noise of the bombardment that he had rushed up to the front intent on taking a hand in the fighting.

In July the battalion went to Nieuport by march route, going into the line across the canal, with their left flank in the air. There were no trenches, and communication was by road at night. They did a successful raid notwithstanding the conditions, securing the first identification that had been made on this front for a long time. A whole company went over, under the command of Capt. B. G. Buxton, who was awarded the Military Cross. The attackers remained in the German line for three-quarters of an hour, and

fought splendidly. During this tour, many casualties occurred through the effective use by the enemy of "mustard" gas. In September the battalion marched by a newly extended route to the most depressing experience for where, following the most depressing experience of hardy realisable discomfort in front of Spree Farm, two of their companies took part in the attack on October 9, and the casualties were heavy. Yet throughout this time, in spite of hardships worse than any yet endured, not a man went sick out of the line. Sergt. Smith, a man respected equally by officers and other ranks, met his death with conspicuous bravery. He was in charge of a machine gun detachment which was buried beneath the explosion of a big shell. He quietly insisted on all the other wounded men being rescued first, and when he was at last taken out, it was found that both his arms had been blown off, and that he had a terrible leg wound. He died within a few hours.

## TREMENDOUS BATTLE IN FLANDERS.

Later in the year the battalion held the line at Broodseinde Ridge, where the commanding officer went sick, being in hospital for about seven weeks. Then followed a period of rest near Cassel, and after receiving a large draft of officers and men from the 5th Battalion (who had gone to the 62nd Division), the 6th Duke's, rejoined by their Colonel, returned early in 1918 to the salient in front of Polygon Wood, where, as of old, they "dug and dug and dug." And here for the first time, being in the forward slope, our men were "on top of the Germans" in the sense that they had direct observation of the inside of their trenches. "If a Boche moved," said an officer the other day, with a smile of happy recollection, "we could see him, and the gunners used to come up in swarms to observe those inviting targets."

In common with other units of the Division, the 6th Duke's were suddenly called upon at the beginning of April to move into the battle south of Kemmel, and take part in stemming the tide of the German advance consequent upon the break through at Laventie. They were in the thick of the fighting around Nieppe, on the south side of the Armentières-Bailleul Road, and they could not understand why they were not allowed to hold the line of the Lys River which they had to sit and see being crossed by the enemy without opposition. The Germans attacked on the right, and the battalion met them with the bayonet and forced them back with splendid dash and courage. Next morning, when the brigade were hemmed in on all sides, and when every one had come to the conclusion that the brigade was to be sacrificed while a solid defence were being organised in rear, Lt. Colonel Bateman was surprised to receive orders to withdraw. Bullets were actually coming into the back of the trenches, yet he managed to extricate his troops, who marched in small parties down the Armentières-Bailleul road, passing many dead Germans on the way. For two days they helped to defend the town of Bailleul from repeated German attacks, getting what an officer has described as some marvellous targets and killing more Germans than they had ever "bagged" before in any fighting during the war. Battalion headquarters had one exciting half-hour in which every member of the staff handled a rifle and not a man fired less than 170 rounds in that time.

## PRAISE FROM THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

After handing over the position which they had held with such tenacity to a corresponding unit of the 59th Division, the battalion withdrew to St. Jans Cappel, which within a few hours again became the front line. The enemy made a great assault on this new line, but he could not break through the dauntless defence of the Yorkshire battalions of the 147th Brigade; and here he was definitely and finally checked with immense slaughter. He seemed to lose all stomach for further offensive fighting in this region, especially when our artillery, which up to this point had been very sparse, came into play, and in the open he proved himself to be no match for our infantry. After a short breathing space, the 6th Duke's were employed with other troops of the 49th Division in repulsing the last deadly assault of the Germans following the capture of Kemmel, and for this important achievement the Division was publicly praised by the Commander-in-Chief in the British communiqué. There was a period of rest at Saint Jan ter Biezen, behind Poperinghe, and the battalion returned to more normal methods of trench warfare in the early summer astride the Menin Road on the Ypres side of Hell Fire Corner. The whereabouts of the Germans were very uncertain at this point; but in a bold and ingeniously organised raid the 6th Duke's, whose greatly depleted ranks had been once more strongly recruited, found out what they wanted to know with dramatic effect. The raiding party penetrated into enemy country 700 yards in advance of our line, and then engaged in a pitched battle with a large party of Germans, some of whom they captured, while of the remainder those who did not escape were killed.

## FIVE HUNDRED PRISONERS AT VALENCIENNES.

In August the battalion went to the Cambrai front, and took a prominent part in the offensive operations which finally destroyed the power of the German Army. They "went over" with other divisional troops in the famous attack on October 11, and pushed on through Villers-au-Clauchie down to the Rhonelle River. In the meantime, Lieut.-Colonel Bateman had been "gassed," and his place was temporarily taken by Major A. B. Clarkson. The most successful battle of the war, so far as the battalion was concerned, was that which took place outside Valenciennes, on November 7, when the 6th Duke's, who went into the attack 400 strong on a front of 1,200 yards, took 500 prisoners, and hundreds of machine guns, and advanced 2,400 yards. The price they had to pay was a loss of half their strength in casualties. This battle provided a glorious climax in casualties. This battle provided a glorious climax in casualties. This battle provided a glorious climax in casualties. Shortly before the day of the armistice, they were withdrawn to Anby, being rejoined by Lieut.-Col. Bateman on December 5. They remained in the Douai area until June, during the process of demobilisation, and the cadre returned to England on the 18th of the month.

# THE WEST RIDINGS IN THE WAR.

## CRAVEN TERRITORIALS.

### FIGHTING IN THE YPRES SALIENT.

#### A NIGHTMARE OF MUD

We give this morning the first instalment of the war-history of the 6th Battalion West Riding Regiment (Territorials). It carries the story only to December, 1915, but covers the experiences in the terrible Ypres salient, where, in a perfect nightmare of mud and water and amid perils of bomb and gas, the fortitude and gallant bearing of the men were beyond praise. The part of the battalion in the Somme advance, and in subsequent operations, must be the subject of a later article.

The war record of the 6th West Riding Territorials is one of which the Craven district and the other places included in the battalion area may be justifiably proud. The full and complete story of the battalion's doings during those eventful years is, of course, not even yet available. It is waiting to be pieced together from documents not yet procurable and the narratives of men most of whom are still doing their "bit" on the other side of the water. In due time it may be possible to write up something like a connective and comprehensive history of all the happenings and episodes of the war period, and thus do full justice to the part the battalion has played. Meanwhile sufficient is known to demonstrate that the old reputation and traditions of the Craven towns and dales, as illustrated in the war stories of the distant past, and especially in the gathering of the host of the Shepherd Lord for Flodden Field, have been more than maintained in this latest and greatest war of the world. The larger outlines of the events in which the battalion has shared have been sketched in the glorious story of the famous 49th Division, of which it formed a part, and that other division, the 62nd, which figured no less conspicuously in some of the stiffest fighting of the later years. What is attempted here is simply to give a slightly more intimate account of battalion experiences and glimpses of the part played by it in the movements and operations of the larger bodies.

#### MOBILISATION FOR WAR.

Like so many other Territorials, the Craven men, in the August of 1914, practically turned straight from the lighter and pleasanter, though by no means slack and easy, life of their peace-time training camp to the sterner realities of actual war preparation. When, on July 26, 1914, the various companies entrained for their annual camp course at Manke, near Saltburn, there was no suspicion in the minds of the men that the war clouds were gathering on the horizon and that the end of their eight-days would see the bursting forth of the storm which was to carry them away from home for so many weary months and years. By the time they came back on the Bank Holiday Monday there was a tense expectancy on all hands, and ere nightfall of the following day—that fateful first Tuesday of August—orders were out calling them up again. The readiness of the men for the call was indicated by the fact that, though the orders were only issued from the Skipton headquarters at 6 p.m., most of them had reported by midnight, and by next morning all was in readiness for moving. In view of the extensive area covered by the battalion this was a most expeditious piece of work. The companies from Keighley, Settle, Haworth, Bingley, and Gilsby had come in during the night, and at noon on the Wednesday the battalion, under the command of Colonel Birkbeck, left the Skipton Drill Hall and entrained for their destination at Inmingham for coast defence duty. In the neighbourhood of Inmingham the battalion remained for ten days, during which time recruits were being drafted daily to bring up the numbers to war strength. On leaving Inmingham the battalion went to Healing, in Lincolnshire, where the men were billeted and commenced their training for active service. At the end of September they were again moved, this time to Riby, near Grimsby, where they went under

At the beginning of November there was another transfer to Doncaster. At both Riby and Grimsby they were put through much stiff work in the way of trench-making and manning, and general field manoeuvres. As an illustration of the uncertainties and apprehensions which were so prevalent during those early months of the war, and even for long afterwards, it is not without interest to recall an episode of the stay at Doncaster. On one occasion the troops were some ten miles away from their quarters when a motor-cyclist came out with an urgent message to them to return as quickly as possible. The men were "force-marched" back to their quarters, and on arrival learned of the bombing of Scarborough. The first story was that the German fleet was out. Grave results were anticipated, and all was got in readiness in expectation of orders for dealing with an enemy landing. Other emergency alarms followed from time to time, and there was no lack of excitement to keep the men on the qui vive during these months. Several times the battalion received orders to be in readiness for duty overseas, or to collect baggage and equipment in anticipation of an attempt at invasion. At Doncaster the course of training was greatly improved and extended, and particular attention was given to getting officers and men into condition for active service; and then, eventually, came the instructions to proceed overseas.

#### HOW THEY WENT OVERSEAS.

Meantime steps had been taken for the formation of a second line. As far back as the days when the battalion was at Healing, in the first weeks of the war, Colonel Birkbeck, the then officer in command, had requested Colonel Williamson, an old commanding officer of the battalion, to raise a second line unit. This he readily consented to do, and among the officers who gathered round him for this important task were Major McKillop, Major Dewhurst, of Skipton; Captain Cloughton, of Gilsby (since killed); Captain N. A. England, of Bingley (now lieutenant-colonel commanding the 8th West Yorkshires, which has been awarded a Battalion Croix de Guerre), and Captain Prince (since killed).

It was on April 15, 1915, that the first 6th Battalion, forming part of the 147th Brigade, which was in turn part of the 49th Division, crossed from Folkestone to Boulogne to help in holding up the enemy until the new armies that Britain was raising could be got ready for the stupendous task that was yet to do. In the operations and fighting that followed it took its full share, and some idea of what it went through may perhaps be gathered by an enumeration of the officers who went out with the battalion and the casualties that have occurred among them. The battalion was under Colonel J. Birkbeck, of Settle, with Major Cass, of Keighley, as second in command. The company officers were Major Bateman, Captain T. K. Wright, Captain A. B. Clarkon, and Captain Chaffers, with Captains Whitaker, Nicholson, Dixon and Sarsby as seconds-in-command; and Lieutenants Geldard, Whitaker (since killed), Barrett, of Skipton, Greaves, (Peter) Smith, Ogston (since killed), Supple (since killed), Knowles (since killed), Jacques, Buxton, Petty, Slingsby (since killed), Robinson, Cedric Horsfall (since killed), Stuck, Bracewell, and S. Clough. There were also Captain S. F. Marriner, adjutant; Lieutenant Haddow, medical officer; Lieutenant J. Churchman, quartermaster, and Lieutenant Malcolm Law (since killed). Later on, while the battalion still retained its local constitution, it was joined from time to time by other officers sent out with drafts, a very considerable number of them being local men who had gone out with the battalion at the outset in the ranks, but later on qualified for commissions and returned home to take the officer training course. Among these, too, the casualties have been very numerous, and the whole of the officers who have fallen would make a long list. Taken in conjunction with the no less heavy losses of the rank and file, they testify to the hard fighting and severe campaign experiences that the battalion has passed through. Lieutenant Petty, it may be mentioned, was the first officer of the battalion to be wounded; and the first one killed was Lieutenant Knowles, who lost his life by the premature explosion of a bomb when he was acting as bombing officer.

#### TRAINING CHANGES.

One point of interest as illustrating the difference in the home training of the troops in those earlier days of the war and later on, and the handicaps suffered by the men on account of their imperfect preparation and ignorance of many of the requirements and operations of actual warfare, may be mentioned. When the battalion first went out to France not a man of them had seen a bomb of any description, and the first experience they had of these missiles was when they were thrown at them by the enemy. In the later stages of the war, of course, men were put through regular courses of instruction

and practice, first with dummy and then with live bombs of practically every kind as part of their preparatory training, and were taught how to conduct themselves under a bomb attack. But in those early days they had to learn nearly everything as they went on, very often from hard and bitter experience. As regards the enemy's use of gas, for instance, at first our troops had no protection whatever from the insidious effects of this new and diabolical invention of the enemy; then they had recourse to crude and very inadequate devices for counteracting the poisonous fumes; but it was only very gradually that the gas masks were brought to the point of perfection ultimately attained by scientific experiment and research. Naturally, the casualties from gas in the early days were exceedingly heavy, and the sufferings of the gas victims were very great. The first gas attack delivered by the Germans at Ypres took place within a few days of the landing of the battalion in France, and the men saw a good many of the troops who were in that engagement passing through to rest. After that gas masks were introduced as part of the equipment and gas drill became part of the routine.

#### EARLY DAYS IN FRANCE.

The battalion had its full share of the trials and war experiences of the 49th Division during this period. After a few days' rest on the other side, and trial trips to the trenches for instructional purposes, the 147th Brigade took over in May a portion of the line in the Neuve Chapelle area, and they had a minor part in the unsuccessful British attack on Aubers Ridge. This engagement will always be remembered by the members of the 6th Battalion who participated in it, not because of anything very notable about it in itself, but because of the excitement over the prospect of getting their first taste of real fighting. The men were on the alert in the expectation of having to go "over the top," and were in complete readiness when the time came. The attack proceeded according to plan and instructions, but broke down on the right, and orders were given that the battalion was to hold on to its trenches and not advance. Further spells in the trenches in a comparatively quiet sector, with short rest intervals, followed; and then, at the end of June, the division was moved up to the Ypres salient, so noted for the bitter and incessant struggle that went on there for the remainder of that year. The period between leaving the Aubers Ridge and getting to the Ypres salient is remembered by many of the men as being marked by some of the stiffest marching of the whole war time. After leaving Fleurbaix they had three days continuously on the march, eventually arriving at a large wood, where they were told to settle down as best they could for the night, but it was ten days before they went on again. Then, at last, they got orders to proceed, and in due course reached their destination. They were dark and trying months that followed. The division was right up against the enemy and unceasing vigilance was called for to guard against attacks, while the conditions under which the men had to live were of a kind calculated to crush the most determined spirit. The ground was swampy, the weather for the most part as bad almost as it possibly could be. All these things, added to the inevitable risks of war, were sufficient to break down the constitutions and tempers of the most hardened troops. As winter came on the trials were further accentuated by an increase of "trench feet" troubles. In the middle of December, too, the enemy sent over gas clouds and put up a heavy bombardment. But these Territorials came out of the ordeal with the highest credit. During its tenure of the Ypres trenches the 49th Division lost neither gun nor prisoner, and General Sir Herbert Plumer, speaking of its achievements, said he was particularly anxious to tell them how highly he valued the spirit shown by all ranks. "I am fully acquainted," he added, "with the exceptionally difficult conditions of the trench line you have held so gallantly for the past six months. I can assure you that wherever the West Riding Division goes it will carry with it the confidence of those under whom it has served and the trust of those under whose orders it may come in future."

#### IN THE YPRES SALIENT.

So much for the divisional record during this terribly trying period in what has been well described as "the terrible Ypres salient." The record of the 6th Battalion has a few detailed points of interest of its own. The battalion took its place at the extreme end of the British line. When on duty in the trenches the men joined right up to the French, and the battalion had to furnish a guard consisting of a French-speaking officer and non-commissioned officer, while, on the other hand, their French neighbours had to furnish a similar guard who could speak English. This arrangement was known as "the International Guard." The dividing line between the two was simply a small bridge over the Yperlys, a little stream. During this period nothing but the

11. Feb 1919

canal separated the Germans from the French trenches. The former were hidden away on one side of the canal, the latter on the other, and there was a continual bombing of the French trenches. "It was just like a daily football match," says one of the men of the 6th, describing what went on, "with the French trench as the goal and the Germans incessantly trying to drop their bombs just on to it. Although the trenches were so near this was not exactly easy to accomplish. The canal sides were lined with trees, and the bombs had to be so thrown that they would clear the trees on the German side in the upward throw, with a sufficient impetus to carry them also over those on the French side and then drop them almost straight down. If they went beyond the trench they had no effect on the French defences. So expert did the throwers become with practice, however, that they managed to hit the trenches nearly every time, while so skilful were the defenders in calculating how and where the bombs would drop that they invariably managed to scatter in time to avoid serious consequences to themselves. Thus the casualties from this bomb-throwing were comparatively slight; but the effect on the trench defences was most destructive. This game would be carried on every afternoon from 3 to 4 o'clock, the Germans throwing the bombs, the men on the other side dodging them, and the trench sides being blown to pieces. Then every night, the trench defences would be built up again, only to undergo the same destruction the following afternoon." Following these regular daily bombings by the Germans, the French, on their part, would reply with their 75's and aerial torpedoes, so that there was no lack of excitement at this point.

When the division first went into the Ypres salient, the members of the 6th Battalion were given to understand that they would be there for three or four weeks; and this seemed likely to be the full extent of their stay in view of the fact that the Regular troops themselves who had previously held the position had never continued there for longer than six weeks. Instead of coming out as expected after a three or four weeks' experience, however, the Territorials were called upon to hold on for six weary months. With the very imperfect trenches which were then existent and the trying weather, it was a fearful time, and one of the last and worst experiences of all associated with this sector was the gas attack and bombardment on the morning of December 19, when the casualties were very heavy. It was on the last night in the Ypres trenches that Lieutenant Malcolm Law was killed. He was actually in the act of "handing over" at the time.

#### A NIGHTMARE OF MUD.

One of those who went through this Ypres period, in recounting the hardships that were endured, says: "We were practically living in mud and water for three months. What with the continual trampling and churning up of the mud things got worse and worse as time went on, until it became impossible to keep the trenches in any state of reasonable repair and habitability. The British trenches were worse than the French ones in this respect, because the British had pushed their lines across the canal, and were thus on the same side as the Germans, and the latter being on higher ground than we were, made a point of draining their water on to us. It was here that we got our first issue of trench boots as a protection against the mud and the 'trench feet' trouble, but in one respect they were anything but an advantage, because they were so thick and the suction of the mud on them so great that it was no uncommon thing for a man to find himself held fast by the clinging filth and unable to extricate himself without assistance. Sometimes a man would push against the trench side or any solid object within reach to draw up one foot, with the result that the other would gradually slip away from under him in the slimy mess, and he would be unable to prevent himself from being sucked under altogether if there was no one by to help him. More than one man lost his life in this way." Even for those who managed to avoid such a fate the continual contest with the mud grew to be nothing short of a horrible nightmare. It was impossible to keep any part of themselves clean. From the time they went into the trench until they came out they were covered with mud, and every attempt to clean themselves only resulted in making the stuff cling the more and penetrate their clothing. To add to their trials the men had to be always on the alert, except when they went into corps rest. It was a terribly wearying and wearing experience; but, in spite of all, they maintained a cheery spirit, and during the short rest periods they made the best of their time in keeping themselves fit and cheerful with football and other games, and the getting up of sports and entertainments.

Towards the end of the October of that first winter of service on the front Lieutenant-Colonel Birkbeck, who had gone out with the battalion, was invalided home, and the command was taken over by Lieutenant-Colonel Alderson, an officer from the Regulars. The brigade was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Brereton, and the divisional commander was General Baldock. The last named, however, was severely wounded while in the Ypres salient and invalided home, and after that the division was commanded by General Percival.

With the opening of the year 1916, the 49th Division entered on a series of new experiences. In January it went into rest at Calais, but the next month saw it moved off to prepare for the Somme "push," which came later in the year. It was a great change in many respects from the muddy vigil in the Ypres salient, and the men of the 6th Battalion have many interesting recollections of the great events in which they took part. These will be dealt with in a subsequent article.

## SOMME OFFENSIVE AND THIEPVAL ATTACKS.

### EVENTS OF 1916.

[On February 11 we gave an instalment of the war history of the first 6th Battalion West Riding Regiment (Territorials), carrying the story up to December, 1915, and dealing with the experiences of the battalion in the terrible Ypres salient. The following article continues the story and describes the doings of 1916.]

Taking up the story of the first 6th Duke of Wellington's at the beginning of the year 1916, after their six months' vigil in the mud baths of the Ypres salient, described in a previous article, the battalion, when the main body of the 49th Division went into rest at Calais, were first of all allocated to Herzeele. They had left the Ypres area on December 29, 1915, and, as the men were in no very fit condition for marching after the hardships they had gone through, they were taken by motor to their first quarters. Some idea of what the six months in the Ypres trenches had really meant to them in sickness and suffering, and losses of one kind and another, may be gathered from the fact that when the battalion came out it was only about a couple of hundred strong, and in the succeeding months it had to undergo a thorough re-formation.

#### AN AMUSING INCIDENT.

The men were allowed to pass a "go-as-you-please" kind of existence for the first few days of their rest, but light training was then taken up, and this was intensified somewhat when, after about a fortnight, another move was made to Wormhoudt. In the evenings here a large number of men patronised the performances of "The Tykes," the divisional concert party, who firmly established themselves in the favour of all ranks in the Division, and were justly regarded as one of the best bodies of entertainers in the whole Expeditionary Force. In a month's time the battalion had picked up its old form, and was fairly fit and ready when it was ordered, early in February, to move on into the Somme area. A part of the journey consisted of a twelve hours' ride to Amiens in trucks, one of the minor ordeals of campaigning. In this case the weariness of it was relieved by at least one not altogether unamusing incident. At Abbeville both the colonel and the second in command left the train, apparently to make some inquiries, but the engine got up steam again before they returned, and the battalion arrived at Amiens minus either a commanding officer or second in command.

The men of the battalion were for the most part unaware of their destination, and it was not until they got into Amiens that they knew where they were. They were delighted to get to a well regulated city again, and especially to come across such conveniences of civilised existence as electric cars after their long experience of a war-stricken, shell-shattered region and a mud-begirt environment. The battalion, however, did not stay in Amiens. On the same day the men were off again marching and bussing to Moliens-Vidame, a pretty village nestling under a hill. Here they found themselves in hilly country, the first they had really had any experience of since their arrival in France. How great a treat this was, particularly to the men bred among the hills and dales of West Yorkshire, may be gathered from the fact that even now, after all the exciting events of the intervening years, officers and men, in talking of this time, recall the sense of relief and delight with which their eyes rested on stretches of landscape so similar to those they had been familiar with from infancy in their own native Craven country. They had about ten days altogether at this place—on the whole, a very pleasant time, during which the men engaged in different forms of sport in the intervals of preparatory training for a further turn of fighting and line-holding. Then they were moved about again from one place to another, resting for a night here and another there. A proof of the value of the training they were thus put through was afforded in the fact that they did a three days' stiff march to Bouzincourt, near the Ancre, without showing any appreciable fatigue. The division then went into the line, but the 147th Brigade, of which the 6th Battalion formed a part, was in reserve. The first intention was for the division to continue in the line here, but as it was not reinforced enough at the time, it was subsequently decided to relieve it with another division. Still, as the relieving

division had not come up, it was necessary for the 147th Brigade to go into the line for a while, and the battalion held the trenches for two days near Auchuilles. They were trying days in their way, because the weather was very bitter and the trenches were full of water.

#### THE CHEERINESS OF THE TROOPS.

After it was relieved the division was engaged in various kinds of work, the 6th Battalion being put on to help in the extension of the broad-gauge railway to Acheux. Towards the end of March it was decided to take the division further back to train in earnest for the coming Somme offensive. The 6th Battalion, however, instead of going back with the rest, was sent a little further forward, and was employed for three weeks digging assembly trenches in Aveluy Wood, these trenches consisting of a series of lines one behind another about ten yards or so apart. They were dug among the trees, and were for the purpose of keeping the reserve troops under cover for the first day of the Somme attack. On Easter Sunday, April 24, the battalion was relieved by the 4th Duke of Wellington's, and went to Naours, about nine miles north of Amiens, where it spent about five weeks in further training and rehearsal preparations for the fighting it expected to have to engage in; then, early in June, it went to Forceville, where further work was carried on. It was during this month that Major C. M. Bateman, D.S.O., who came out with the battalion, was appointed to the command, taking over the position from Lieutenant-Colonel R. L. Alderson, D.S.O., who left to command the 148th Brigade. The 49th Division at this time was in the 10th Corps, and later in the month it became known that in the coming offensive it would be in corps reserve, and that the attack in the first instance would be carried out by the 32nd Division and the 36th (Ulster) Division.

Just at this time, as the division was drawing nearer and nearer to the line, a large draft arrived, which brought the battalion more up to strength, and, shortly after final preparations were made for the intended attack. A brigade drumhead service was held on the last Sunday they were out, at which the Brigadier made a few remarks, commenting on the fine way the men had held on in the old Ypres trenches, reminding them of what they had suffered there and how those who were left of the original battalion could never forget the gas attack to which they had been subjected. But, he added, they were now to have the chance of getting some of their own back. Their opportunity of retaliation had come. Following on this a move forward was made to Contay, and later to Watley, and then to Aveluy Wood. Other troops were coming up meanwhile for the great task, and one of the remembrances of the Craven men who were in at this affair is the cheery, confident spirit manifested on all hands on the eve of this tremendous ordeal. One lot of men after another passed by going to their allotted places, but all singing at the top of their voices and cheerful almost beyond belief. On the night of June 30—July 1 the battalion moved to Aveluy Wood and took over the assembly trenches the men had themselves dug in the previous April. As they went up from their last night in billets they gathered from the increasing roar of the guns the terrific nature of the preparatory bombardment of the German lines, which had been going on for days. The reply of the enemy artillery was rather severe at times, but there were no serious happenings in their particular area, and the battalion was fortunate enough to get into its assembly trenches in the wood without a single casualty.

#### THE ATTACK ON THE THIEPVAL POSITION.

The attack had been planned in the first place for two or three days earlier than the date finally decided on, but had had to be postponed on account of the very inclement weather. The critical hour came at last, however. Zero was at 7.30 a.m. on July 1. Just before that time came a sudden cessation of the heavy firing, and then after a short silence the lighter guns started with drum-fire, this being the first experience most of the men of the 6th had had of the characteristic and impressive sound of this form of artillery activity, and even in the tense excitement of the moment they were greatly struck by it.

The German positions at Thiepval were on the top of the ridge, and were supported by the almost equally strong positions on the ridges at Beaucourt and Beaumont-Hamel on the opposite side of the River Ancre; but the Thiepval position had the additional advantage of affording command over the lines further south towards Ovillers, Pozieres, La Boisselle and Mametz. During their two years' tenure of the line the Germans had employed every known device to strengthen their line and make it almost impregnable, and Thiepval was the key to the whole position. As usual, the enemy employed a very large number of machine guns, the positions of which were very carefully chosen and hidden, or "camouflaged." An elaborate system of tunnel dug-outs had also been constructed, and this enabled a large garrison to be kept in perfect safety with the minimum of men on sentry duty. It will be remembered that the original British attack extended from Gommecourt in the north to the junction of the Anglo-French line near Frise in the south, and that the French army under Marshal Foch attacked on the British right. From Gommecourt to near La Boisselle the attack was

not a success, but from the last named place southwards it was completely successful, and the British plan was then to take from the south the German positions which had defied capture from the west, and this resulted in the capture of Thiepval on September 26, 1916. Although the attack of the 10th Corps did not achieve success, still it undoubtedly created great disorganisation behind the enemy's lines, and was instrumental in assisting the victorious advance further south. The Ulster Division did most gallant work, but the men were unable to mop up the trenches they had captured, with the result that the Germans came out of their dug-outs and inflicted very severe losses on the Ulstermen.

#### A TRYING TWO MONTHS.

The night of July 1 was spent by the 6th West Ridings in a system known as the Crucifix dug-outs, near Aveluy village; and on the following night the battalion, along with other battalions of the 147th Brigade, moved up into Thiepval Wood to take part in an attack north of Thiepval, which had been planned to start early next morning. The attack, however, never took place, and the battalion spent what was probably one of the worst nights it experienced during the whole of the war. The hostile shelling was very heavy, and never once ceased, as the Germans appeared to anticipate the possibility of an attack. In the course of the morning the position was withdrawn to the shelter of assembly trenches in Aveluy Wood. The Craven men spent one night there, and then the whole brigade was put into the trenches opposite Thiepval, and there they held the line for nearly two months, suffering numerous casualties and never having any real rest. As stated previously, the German positions at Thiepval commanded the line to the south, and the battalion had on many occasions to send over smoke which generally—but not always—blew over Thiepval in a dense cloud and blotted out from view the operations taking place to the south. Smoke was sent over by throwing a large number of phosphorous bombs, which burst just outside the parapet and emitted smoke. This was trying and hazardous work, because the appearance of the smoke at once started heavy hostile artillery fire on the British trenches. This was a distinctive feature of the battalion's tenure of the line. The German retaliation of the bombardment set up before the British attack on July 1 had in many cases obliterated the trenches opposite Thiepval, and when the battalion went into the line they had to reconstruct the British line, and were employed for practically the whole of the time in digging out the trenches. In one part of the front line, where a re-entrant was formed exactly opposite Thiepval Coteau, they dug a new trench across "No Man's Land" for a distance of about 200 yards, joining up the two outside points. They also constructed two communication trenches to this new trench from the old front line, one of which they called "Bateman Street," after the colonel. The two months here will always be remembered by those who went through the experience. Even when the men were out of the trenches they never got any further than the system of dug-outs known as the North Bluff, which was only a matter of half a mile to three quarters behind the line. The only rest they had was a week in August at Lealvillers, and then they moved into Thiepval Wood again.

The instructions were to hold the line until it was thought advisable to attack, but it was not until September that it was considered the opportune moment had arrived. When it did eventually come, on September 3, the 6th Battalion was in reserve to the 4th and 5th. In the attack these two battalions got to the second line of enemy trenches, but, owing to difficulties on the left, it was impossible to hold the ground which they had gained. In this fighting the 6th Battalion in reserve had no actual share, but it suffered heavy casualties nevertheless from shell fire, among others who went down being Second-Lieutenant Gill, who was killed, and Lieutenant (now Captain) Jacques, who was badly wounded, so that the battalion has some sad reminders of its days in the Ancre Valley. This time will also be remembered by the men because it was here they lived on biscuits for the better part of seven weeks. Behind them was a big road, but it was so continually swept by the enemy shells that supplies could only be brought up at great risk and under considerable difficulties. For those seven weeks they got next to no bread, and had to depend on biscuits instead. Water had to be obtained from the River Ancre.

#### THE SECOND CHRISTMAS IN FRANCE.

After this ordeal the battalion was withdrawn to Helleville, where it rested and trained for about ten days, and then was sent into the line to hold the Loos salient, near Authuille, where it had another severe time of it and suffered some further heavy casualties, among the killed being Captain Cedric Hordall, who was commanding D (Keighley) Company, Lieutenant W. B. Naylor, Sergeant Marks, of Keighley, and Private Bottomley, who was one of the most popular men in the whole of the Keighley company, and was generally known as "Billy Bott." Lieutenant Naylor was acting at the time of his death as brigade bombing officer. Lieutenant Clark was badly wounded. Following on about a week at this point the battalion was again withdrawn, but only to be sent very shortly afterwards

to hold another portion of the line north of Fouquevillers and opposite Gommecourt. The first part of its stay here was not uncomfortable, but in the month of November the conditions once more became very trying. The weather was of the most unpleasant variety, the trenches very wet and deep in mud, and the enemy trench mortaring was very severe. Four non-commissioned officers in D Company were killed one night by the same trench mortar. One foggy morning Second-Lieutenant Wilson was wounded by a chance bullet, and subsequently died. Early December found the battalion out for a month's rest at Halley, a small village near Doullens, and the men were able to eat their Christmas dinner under comparatively comfortable circumstances. It is true the accommodation available was poor, but nevertheless it was a Christmas dinner eaten on Christmas Day.

Among the changes which took place during this year in the brigade of which the battalion formed a part was the transfer of the brigade command. Early in September Brigadier-General E. F. Brereton, C.B., D.S.O., who had won the admiration of all ranks, went home, and his place was taken by Brigadier-General C. G. Leves, D.S.O., of the Essex Regiment. The adjutant, Captain S. F. Marriner, left in December, 1915, to take up a staff appointment, and Captain N. B. Chaffers, M.C., who succeeded him, left in September to become second in command of the 3rd Battalion Worcester Regiment. Captain F. L. Smith, M.C., then became adjutant in his place.

#### INCIDENTS OF THE THIEPVAL FIGHTING.

Of the time outside Thiepval some of the men of the 6th have very lively and interesting recollections. During the earlier part of their stay there the weather was fine, and it was very beautiful, they say, looking out on to the wooded slopes and valley, while there was no lack of cover for men and batteries, so that, though they were continually being "strafed" by shell fire, and were kept constantly on the qui vive, they took many risks. A number of the men even would take every possible opportunity of a swim in the river, notwithstanding that they were occasionally spotted while engaged in this recreation and would have to scatter. Another thing which probably tended to make them the more careless about exposing themselves was that the enemy air service was very inferior to that of the Allies at that time. The men also tell many stories about the remarkable character of what they call "the wonderworks"—the system of fortifications and defences, in the perfecting of which the Germans had been exercising a great deal of ingenuity for a couple of years.

Again, some of the Keighley men tell of the delight with which, when they were being relieved during one attack, they ran up against troops of the 8th Duke of Wellingtons, including quite a number of Keighley men who had enlisted in "Kitchener's Army." At once there was a great exchange of greetings and boys of both lots were running about hunting up old pals and acquaintances, despite the danger they were in from a counter-attack which was actually in progress. At the same time, amid the hasty greetings, they were calling upon and urging each other to hold on and not give back to the enemy any of the ground which had been taken during the morning. The enemy's counter-attack was, in fact, withstood, and when the advanced sections had time to look at the plans of the trenches they should have taken it was found they were in advance of the positions they had been expected to capture, and this only made the troops the more keen, because they hoped to get hold of the key to the Thiepval defences. The Germans, the men say, seemed to be completely demoralised for the time, and there was a great gathering in by the attackers of German souvenirs in the shape of helmets and other articles left on the ground.

It was here that Sergeant Cecil Rhodes, of Keighley, was wandering about behind the trenches looking for souvenirs. Seeing a ground-sheet, which he thought he might find a use for, he lifted it and discovered a German, who jumped up and tried to bolt. The sergeant, however, rushed after him, collared his man, and brought him in as a prisoner. Another incident was that of one of the men of the battalion who was looking out from the trenches and noticed a German running from point to point. Instead of spotting him with his rifle the man ran out, collared the fellow and brought him to headquarters, where it was found that he was a despatch carrier with messages, and from the papers on him some important information in regard to the enemy arrangements was obtained, which enabled further ground to be gained with very few casualties. It was in this further advance that the men realised the extent and devastating character of the British shell fire which had been brought to bear on the enemy positions. The trenches had undergone a shattering which was almost unimaginable. The remarkable character of the defences themselves was evident, too, in the numerous and elaborate dug-outs carried in many cases to quite considerable depths. All sorts of mechanical devices had been rigged up, and it was apparent that the enemy had made every possible preparation for holding the position against the most formidable attacks. Naturally the men were in great glee at what they had accomplished in face of such obstacles and many of the West Ridings were bitterly disappointed at not being allowed to finish the task they had thus started on. They were withdrawn, however, giving place to troops of the 18th Division, who, with the aid of tanks, completed the job.

#### Old Comrades' Association For the "First-Sixth."

We understand there is a movement on foot for the formation of an Old Comrades' Association in connection with the 1/6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. An association of this kind has been successfully launched in connection with the 1/4th Battalion, and there is ample scope for the "First-Sixth's" to bring into their daily life at home the same spirit of comradeship that prevailed to such good purpose in the trenches. The only sense in which the proposed association will be military, we understand, will be that of maintaining the honour of the Battalion. The objects of the Association will be to foster the spirit of comradeship and to help the members with regard to payment of gratuities, employment, and their general welfare; and to see that no "First-Sixth" man gets into low water without a helping hand being given. It is probable, we understand, that similar associations may also be formed for the other Battalions of the West Ridings.

## HOME AGAIN.

1/6<sup>TH</sup> "DUKE'S" RETURN TO SKIPTON.

COLOURS DEPOSITED IN THE PARISH CHURCH.

A MEMORABLE DAY.

Yesterday was a great day for the people of Skipton and district, and a memorable one in the history of the Skipton Territorials. It was the day to which the people of the district had looked forward ever since the local Territorials left the country to take part in the Great War—the day when the 1/6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment officially returned home after five fateful years of war. The return was probably far different from that anticipated by many people, but this was not allowed to interfere with the warmth of the welcome, which was indeed touching in its sincerity and intensity.

It was on April 15th, 1915, that the 1/6th "Duke's," in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel John Birkbeck, left Doncaster with the 49th Division for France. The Battalion, which included men from Skipton, Keighley, Settle, Silsden, and other parts of Craven, was not quite at full strength, consisting of about 1,100 men. No Battalion set out with a higher spirit of comradeship than did the 6th "Duke's," or with more determination to maintain the great traditions of their regiment. The Battalion has not perhaps been in the limelight in the same way as some others. Its role for a long time was to hold trenches and generally to do what was known amongst the men as the "donkey work"; but it must not be forgotten that it required the same fine stamp of fellow to do this work as it did to go over the top. At Ypres, Ouvres Ridge, and Paschendaele, on the Somme, and at Cambrai, the 1st/6th "Duke's" did invaluable service for the Allied cause, and on all occasions they upheld the reputation of the British Army and the traditions of their regiment. Their casualties numbered over 2,400, and their losses by death were proportionately heavy.

Notwithstanding one or two little hitches which could not be foreseen, such as the missing by the returned men of the train connection at Ilkley and other minor mishaps, yesterday's proceedings passed off most successfully; and the Urban Council and the townspeople generally did everything possible to mark the occasion in the way it deserved. News reached Skipton on Tuesday afternoon that the cadre of the Battalion was expected to arrive in the town on the following day, but a later message was to the effect that the men would not arrive until Thursday. This gave a little more time for Mr. Richard Wilson, the Clerk to the Urban Council, to organise a public welcome, and the most was made of the opportunity. The schools were granted a half-holiday, and many of the mills and workshops gave their employees an extended dinner-time to enable them to witness the return of the men.

The cadre comprised three officers and 21 men, as follows:—Lieut.-Colonel Bateman, D.S.O. (who went out with the Battalion as the Second Company Commander), Captain and Adjutant F. B. Mellors, Captain and Quartermaster J. Churchman, R.S.M.T. Richardson, R.Q.M.S. J. Norton, C.Q.M.S. B. Thompson, Sergeant Close, Sergeant H. Bryden, Sergeant F. Warhurst, Corporal H. G. Kaye, Lance-Corporal F. Whiteoak, Lance-Corporal E. Jenkinson, Privates J. T. Bradley, H. A. Barker, J. Howard, C. C. Sedgwick, F. Spencer, A. G. Smith, G. L. Jones, G. Whitehead, H. Cockroft, J. A. V. Drake, A. Thornton, and J. Connor. Sergeant W. Woods and Sergeant Sibbons also came with the cadre as far as Ripon.

On arrival at Skipton Station from Otley (the Headquarters of the Battalion, where they arrived from Southampton on Wednesday) about half-past two, the cadre was met by the Chairman (Cr. John Walker) and the other members of the Skipton Urban Council, and the Mayor (Mr. F. N. Binns), Aldermen and other members of the Keighley Corporation. There was a buzz of excitement as the train entered the station, and the cry of "They're here" was the signal for hearty cheers. Directly the returned warriors, two of whom proudly bore the Regimental Colours, reached the station approach, a guard of honour was formed of N.C.O.'s and 60 men belonging to the Devonshire Regiment, stationed at Raikes Wood Camp, in charge of Lieutenant Ring. Cheer after cheer went up as it became known amongst the crowd that the men had arrived.

A procession was quickly formed by P.S. Barton and Mr. G. A. Pearson (marshals), which, in addition to the cadre, comprised the members of the Skipton Urban Council, the Mayor and members of the Keighley Borough Council (who rode in carriages), the Skipton Prize

Brass Band, a goodly number of demobilised officers formerly connected with the "Duke's," the detachment of officers and men from Raikes Wood Camp, the Skipton Volunteers (in charge of Lieut. S. H. Walton), and a large body of demobilised soldiers (mostly men who have served in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment). Among demobilised officers present associated with the "Duke's" were Col. J. Birkbeck, Major T. K. Wright, Major Clarkson, Major E. G. Whittaker, Major Chaffers, M.C., Captain W. B. Carson, Captain L. Jaques, Captain G. Broughton, Captain Dixon, Captain J. D. Horsfall, Lieut. Gray, Lieut. Stocks, M.C., Lieut. T. P. Brighthouse, Lieut. Carr, Lieut. D. F. Peacock, Lieut. Adams, and Lieut. Booth.

On the way to the Town Hall the Band played "See the Conquering Hero Comes" and the National Anthem, as well as a stirring march; the crowds all along the route cheered the returned men again and again; flags were waved; and the people rejoiced unrestrainedly; and the very air seemed charged with enthusiasm and excitement. Among the crowds were many whose thoughts turned to the brave lads who would never return, and passing along in front of the people one could see that tears were mingled with the rejoicings. The shopkeepers, the banks, the mills, and many of the householders had done their best to lend additional attraction to the event by the provision of flags and streamers; and in front of the Town Hall had been placed a streamer bearing the words "Welcome Home."

On arrival in front of the Town Hall the military elements in the procession formed three sides of a square, with the cadre in the place of honour, facing the building, in front of which had been drawn up the carriages in which the City Fathers of Skipton and Keighley had been conveyed. From one of these the Chairman of the Urban Council (Cr. J. Walker) and the Mayor of Keighley offered an official welcome, to which Lieut.-Colonel Bateman replied, the speeches being punctuated with cheers.

Cr. John Walker recalled the fact that the Battalion went out to France in 1915, and expressed the pleasure he felt in being able to offer, on behalf of the town, hearty congratulations to the men on their safe return. No town, he felt sure, would offer a warmer welcome to its returned soldiers than Skipton did that day. The return of the cadre of the local Battalion afforded intense gratification to Skipton townspeople, and he felt sure that the people of the town and district appreciated at their true worth the great services of the local Territorials in the war. Mr. Bonar Law had rightly said that the men of some nations fought under compulsion, while those of other nations fought through discipline, but the British soldier fought from a sense of duty. They met that day with mingled feelings of satisfaction and regret—satisfaction at the return of the men, and great sorrow because of the loss, with its consequent hardship upon their parents, widows and children, of many brave soldiers. They were all hoping that in a few days' time peace would be signed, and that it would be a satisfactory peace. In conclusion, he appealed strongly to the public to support the Victory Loan (applause).

The Mayor of Keighley, on behalf of his fellow townspeople, also extended a hearty welcome to the returned soldiers. It was very difficult, he said, to express one's feelings of gratitude for the service rendered by those who had gone out to fight in this war. Those who had stayed at home had followed with intense gratification and thankfulness the work of the brave lads who had gone out from this district to save their country; and it could truthfully be said that the lads of the West Riding had done their share towards bringing the war to a successful conclusion. The people at home would never forget their cheerful and courageous conduct under circumstances of unparalleled danger and awful conditions, and their deeds of heroism would never be forgotten. He recalled with pride his visit to Doncaster to see the West Ridings leave for the front, and to-day he felt a similar feeling of pride in being able to welcome to their native home some of the lads who had gone out to fight for King and Country. He sincerely hoped that their future would be full of prosperity and happiness. While they welcomed home those who had been spared, they mourned the loss of their comrades who would not return.

Lieut.-Colonel Bateman, on behalf of the cadre, expressed thanks for the kind welcome extended to them. He also apologised for the unseemly delay in the arrival of the cadre at Skipton owing to the missing of a train connection at Ilkley, laughingly observing that the railways were now State controlled, which perhaps accounted for the mishap. Lieut.-Col. Bateman also reminded the gathering that peace was not yet signed, and said that when it was signed it was up to them all, soldiers and civilians alike, to see that the peace conditions were properly carried out (hear, hear, and applause). The people at home had probably only dimly realised what war was; it was impossible to realise its full meaning unless they went out to the Front; and it was up to them to see that the full fruits of victory were obtained (applause).

Mr. J. A. Slingsby, J.P., chairman of the Skipton Board of Guardians, who had been invited to speak, was obliged, owing to the late arrival of the cadre, to return to an important business engagement.

Cheers were then called for the cadre and the commanding officer, and these were echoed again and again; and the proceedings concluded with the National Anthem played by the band.

The cadre and the other elements of the procession afterwards proceeded to the Parish Church for the purpose of placing the Regimental Colours in the keeping of the churchwardens. Immediately those forming the procession had reached their places the remaining seats were quickly taken up by the large waiting crowd, hundreds of people being unable to obtain admission.

A short service befitting the occasion, conducted by the Rev. W. M. Lister and the Rev. F. G. Forder, opened with the hymn "Fight the good fight" (accompanied by the Skipton Prize Brass Band), and included special prayers, an appropriate address by the Rev. W. M. Lister, and the hymn "O God, our help in ages past." The colours were borne to the front of the Altar by Capt. Churchman and Capt. Mellors, and were received by the two clergymen named and placed on the Altar table; and an altogether impressive service concluded with the National Anthem and the Benediction.

In his address the Rev. W. M. Lister expressed, on behalf of himself and the townspeople generally, regret at the unavoidable absence of the Rector (the Ven. Archdeacon Cook). They all knew, he said, how deeply interested the Archdeacon had been in the welfare of the men who had gone out to fight, and they would have felt regret if his name had not been mentioned in connection with such a service in the Church in which he had laboured so long. Speaking then from the words, "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the sun," &c., Mr. Lister said the keynote of their service was sounded in the good old greeting which had been so freely heard in the streets that afternoon—"Welcome Home." Not only were they glad to receive back the colours of the local regiment, but they were also proud to offer a welcome to the men who had so bravely upheld the honour and prestige of the regiment during the lengthy time they had been in France. They thanked God that these men had been spared, and desired also to thank them most heartily for all they had done for them. The time to kill had passed, and the time to heal had come, and they hoped that the future would hold for them a period of great and prosperous reconstruction. They recognised that sorrow for the loved ones who had given their all could not be turned away all at once, but they believed that in God's good time they who had sown in tears would reap in joy. As a nation we had passed through very dark times, but the cloud was now lifting, and to-day they had had an illustration of the fact that joy followed sorrow, if they trusted in the mercy of God. That day was the season of rejoicing; let them all, therefore, enter into it as heartily as possible.

Subsequently the cadre and the demobilised officers of the 1st/6th Battalion, with a number of friends, were entertained to luncheon at the Devonshire Hotel by the members of the Skipton Urban Council. After the meal a number of toasts were honoured, and further "welcomes home" were extended to the cadre.

Mr. J. W. Broughton, vice-chairman of the Urban Council, proposed "The Health of the 1st/6th West Riding Battalion," observing that the Battalion had added lustre to Skipton and district by its deeds during the four years of war, in which the local men had played so splendid a part. The town and the members of the Council were distinctly honoured by their presence with them that day.



# HOME, WITH HONOURS.



The cadre of the 6th Battalion West Riding Regiment (Territorials) received an inspiring welcome at Skipton yesterday. Our picture shows the cadre with their colours. The colours were deposited in the Parish Church, which is seen in the background. Photograph: "Yorkshire Observer" copyright.

THE YORKSHIRE OBSERVER, FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1919.

Colonel Bateman, in reply, touched upon the various styles of training through which the Battalion passed prior to embarkation for the Front, and also upon the successful part it had played in a large number of important engagements. Referring to the future of the Territorial Force, he said that at present the Force was in an unsettled and uncertain stage. The military policy of the country was of such a character that he believed there was no doubt that in an emergency a fine Army of men could within a few weeks be mobilised. The Volunteer system, he understood, was going to be tried again. The vastness of the British Empire, which it would be necessary to effectively police, would demand in the future a large striking force, and it was up to the citizens of this country to give every encouragement possible to the proper maintenance of a Territorial Force, which would not only secure for the country a thoroughly defensive Army, but also for the Empire the protection it required. Upon the question of whether a Territorial Force was desirable or not in principle, he was not at the moment prepared to offer a definite opinion, but he wished to emphasise the need for cultivating the popularity of such a Force were the experiment of its establishment once decided upon. Personally, he was anxious that the Volunteer

Force should be completely successful, and that it should not under any circumstances become the subject of experiment.

Colonel Birkbeck, who went out to the Front in charge of the Battalion, also responded, and referring to party politics as an institution which had been the ruin of this country, said that in the trenches no politics of any kind were recognised; the only thing that was recognised was true comradeship. He believed the fighting was over and that the Germans would never again dare to meet the British in open field. They would, however, seek to insinuate themselves into the fabric of the Empire, and by underhand methods seek to accomplish as far as possible its destruction. Having achieved its own ruin, Germany now sought to encompass the ruin of every other land; its methods were Bolshevism, which after all, was another name for Boche-ism.

The Mayor of Keighley proposed "The Health of the Chairman and Members of the Skipton Urban Council," and Cr. J. Walker suitably replied.

A word of credit is due to Mr. W. W. Smith, "mine host," who, at short notice, so successfully catered for the party, and earned high praise on the success of his efforts.

## THE 6TH DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S REGIMENT.

The following lines are dedicated to the Cadre of the 1/6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's on their return from active service, June, 1919, by Jock Miller, Devon. Regiment, Raikeswood Camp, Skipton:—

We have read of Balaclava and the deeds of Waterloo,  
And our hearts have thrilled within us when we've seen what men can do;  
But the good old 6th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's  
Have shown the town of Skipton they reap brave and noble sons.

They left their homes and loved ones to face the shot and shell,  
To fight for Britain's honour and the homes they loved so well;  
Those gallant sons of Yorkshire who counted not the cost,  
But bravely gave themselves to bleed or die at duty's post.

To Skipton we did welcome them with Colours borne on high,  
There were many happy faces, many a tear-dimmed eye;  
The Colours of the Regiment are an emblem of the brave,  
Their names will live for ever though they've found a soldier's grave.

**WELCOME HOME.**  
**"Dukes" Return to Skipton.**  
**Great Reception Yesterday.**

The Cadre of the 6th West Riding (Territorial) Regiment arrived at Skipton, their headquarters, yesterday (Thursday). The Battalion have served in France and Flanders for about four years, and the part they played in numerous important engagements has added many honours to their name. The Cadre arrived at Southampton on Wednesday, their journey commencing at Douai in France. Their way to the coast lay through stricken fields, notable among which being Vimy Ridge (synonymous with Canadian valour), and Lens, the long-coveted, and finally achieved, objective of our forces. They embarked at Dunkirk for the Channel crossing. The Battalion left Doncaster for the Front on April 14th, 1915, about 1,000 strong, in command of Lieut.-Col. Birkbeck, and the measure of their wastage during four years of war is indicated by the fact that they have suffered no less than 2,400 casualties.

**RECEPTION AT THE STATION.**

The arrival of the Cadre at Skipton was awaited by a large crowd of people who assembled at the Station, and the route to the Town Hall was thickly lined by hundreds expectantly awaiting sight of the three officers and 20 N.C.O.'s and men, the remnants of a very gallant formation mobilised mainly from the Keighley and Skipton districts. The party, which arrived an hour late through missing a connection at Ilkley, was in command of Lieut.-Col. C. M. Bateman, D.S.O., and was received at the Station by former commanders and officers of the Battalion as follows:—Lieut.-Col. Birkbeck, Major Clarkson, Major Chaffers, M.C., Major T. K. Wright, Capt. W. B. Carson, Capt. G. Brown, Capt. Dixon, Capt. L. Jacques, Lieut. Gray, Lieut. Stocks, M.C., Lieut. T. P. Brighouse, Lieut. D. F. Peacock, Lieut. Adams, and Lieut. Booth. They were welcomed also by members of the Keighley Corporation, including the Mayor (Mr. F. N. Binns), Ald. H. C. Longsdon, and Ald. J. W. Midgley, and by the chairman and members of the Skipton Urban District Council. A Guard of Honour of 60 N.C.O.'s and men from the Devonshire Regiment, at present quartered at Raikes Wood Camp, paraded with fixed bayonets, under the command of Lieut. Ring. There were also present two detachments of discharged and demobilised soldiers under the command of C.S.M. Pass and C.S.M. Dods-worth, of Skipton, together with detachments of Boy Scouts from the Skipton Grammar School and the Brougham Street Council Schools.

**CHEERING STREETS.**

On their appearance at the main exit of the Station, headed by the colours of the Battalion, unfurled, the party were accorded a rousing reception. Before they proceeded further a procession was marshalled in the following order by Mr. G. A. Pearson and P.S. Barton:—Supt. Vaughan and police; members of the Skipton Urban District Council, and the Mayor of Keighley and Aldermen (in coaches), the Skipton Brass Band (under

the conductorship of Mr. F. Metcalfe); the Cadre; and the two detachments of ex-service men. The procession, which was loudly cheered en route, brought up in front of the Town Hall, which, over the entrance, bore the message "Welcome home." Here the Cadre were formally welcomed by Cr. J. Walker (chairman of the Urban District Council) and the Mayor of Keighley.

Cr. Walker, in extending welcome on behalf of the townspeople of Skipton, said the people from amongst whom the Battalion had sprung were grateful beyond adequate expression for the services which its members had rendered on the fields of France, and for the manner in which they had helped to defend the country at all costs. Mr. Bonar Law had said the men of some nations fought under compulsion, and others from a sense of discipline, but the British soldier fought from a sense of duty. (Hear, hear.) Their sympathy was deeply felt for the relatives of men who had been lost whilst serving in the Battalion, but they were hoping that as a result of the great effort put forth during the past few years, a satisfactory peace would soon be established. Cr. Walker concluded by urging the townspeople to support the efforts of Skipton's soldiers by subscribing as worthily as possible to the Victory Loan which had just been launched.

**COURAGEOUS EXPLOITS.**

The Mayor of Keighley, having alluded to the intense interest with which the people of that district had watched the exploits of the Battalion, said they could never forget the cheerful and courageous conduct of the men in circumstances of unparalleled danger and hardship. He hoped the future of the officers and men in the Cadre would be full of prosperity.

Col. Bateman, who responded, was received with loud cheering. After thanking Skipton for its expression of welcome, and apologising for the delay in the arrival of the Cadre, he said that a great many things had happened during the past four years, and now peace was at hand. When it was finally established it would be "up to" them all, citizens and soldiers alike, to see that it was effectually maintained. (Hear, hear.) "Many of you people," he added, "realise very dimly what war means, and I hope for your sakes your conception of it will never be clearer than it is."

At the close cheers were heartily given to the Cadre and Lieut.-Col. Bateman.

A brief service was subsequently held at the Parish Church, and was conducted by Rev. W. M. Lister and Rev. F. G. Forder. Here the Battalion Colours were handed over to the keeping of the Churchwardens, and they will be restored to their former position within the altar rails. They were received by Rev. W. M. Lister from Major J. Churchman and Capt. F. B. Mellors, officers of the Cadre, who were accompanied by the Regimental-Sergeant-Major of the Battalion, R.S.M. T. Richardson.

In the course of an impressive address, Rev. W. M. Lister referred to the departure of the Colours from their position in the Church on December 8th, 1918, and proceeded to allude to the pride with which Skipton welcomed home both the Colours and the

Cadre. He hoped that the near future would witness a prosperous period of reconstruction, and added that though much time would elapse before the advent of complete public rejoicing, a just and lasting peace was within reach of accomplishment.

The choir were in attendance, and the service closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

**THE LUNCHEON.**

Later in the afternoon the members of the Cadre were entertained to luncheon by the members of the Urban District Council at the Devonshire Hotel.

Cr. J. W. Broughton (vice-chairman) having briefly proposed the toast of the 1st 6th Battalion of the West Riding Regiment, Col. Bateman responded. After tracing the Battalion through the various training centres to the port of embarkation for France, and alluding to the important parts assigned to it in various engagements, he touched briefly upon the future of the Territorial Force in England. At present this force was in a very unsettled state, and an interim army, though promised, was yet not in existence. Probably, however, if emergency arose, a big army could be mobilised. The question of the Territorial Force vitally affected not only Britain's striking power—but her ability to effectually police the vast areas of her empire. Upon the further question as to whether, in principle, a volunteer force was the best force, he did not propose to offer an opinion, but if a Territorial Army were decided upon, he appealed to all sections of the community to give it full support. Rather, he added, let such a force never be called into being than, once established, result in failure.

Col. Birkbeck also responded, and emphasised the ruining affect of party politics in England. In the trenches, he said, no politics were recognised—only a true spirit of comradeship. He believed the fighting was over, and that the German would never again face the Britisher in an open field. He must be carefully watched, nevertheless, as he would endeavour to insinuate his influence into the fabric of our Empire, and seek to accomplish by covert means what he dared not attempt openly. Having achieved her own ruin, Germany was intent on encompassing that of all other nations by a system of Bolshevism, which after all was but another name for Bocheism. (Hear, hear.)

The remaining toast was "The Chairman and members of the Skipton Urban District Council," proposed by the Mayor of Keighley and responded to by Cr. J. Walker.

The following comprised the Cadre:—Lieut.-Col. Bateman, Capt. and Quartermaster J. Churchman, Capt. Mellors, R.S.M. T. Richardson, R.C.M.S. B. Thompson, Sergts. F. Cloe, H. Bryden, F. Warhurst, Corpl. H.D.G. Kaye, Lance-Corpls. E. Jenkinson and A. F. Whiteoak, Ptes. J. T. Bradley, H. A. Barker, J. Howard, C. C. Sedgewick, F. Spencer, A. G. Smith, G. L. Jones, G. Whitehead, W. Cockroft, J. A. V. Drake, A. Thornton, and J. Connor. The men hailed largely from Skipton and Keighley districts.



DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

MR. W. HUNTER  
MR. F. M. BALPH  
MR. A. STECKEL

# Settle War Memorial Committee.

Chairman—G. K. Charlesworth, Esq.  
Hon. Sec. & Treas.—T. L. Hetherington.

Settle  
15 Jan 1920

Dear Mr Brayshaw,

May I be permitted to  
on behalf of the Committee to  
express  
our sympathy with you in your illness  
and to wish you a speedy recovery.

I am enclosing the plans for the  
alteration of the Tankham which may be  
of interest to you. Briefly, at our meeting  
last night, we adopted these plans,  
asked Mr Ross to obtain tenders for the work,  
asked him to supply us with a coloured  
drawing of the plan, and the Sub C'tee are  
drawing up a letter of appeal to be sent  
out shortly.

It was suggested, that if you were  
well enough, a letter from you to Mr  
Morton would carry most weight

SETTLE

It may be a week or so before I receive  
the coloured drawing of the memorial  
but if you feel you could approach  
Mr Morrison on the matter I would send  
on the drawing for you to forward to  
him for his inspection.

Perhaps you could send a message  
to me per your brother, I do not  
wish to trouble you to write a letter.

With kind regards

Do remain

Yours sincerely,

E. H. H. H. H.

P.S. *entre nous*

Mr Ross's estimate for the work in the Market Place  
is £350/400.

# Settle War Memorial.

Chairman—G. K. CHARLESWORTH, ESQ.

Committee :

LIEUT.-COL. BIRKBECK  
MR. T. BRAYSHAW  
MR. J. W. BUTTERWORTH  
MR. W. F. CLARK

MR. HENRY DUGDALE  
MR. JOSEPH HARGER  
MR. THOS. HARGER  
MR. WM. HUNTER

MR. C. J. LORD  
MR. JOHN MOORE  
MR. P. M. RALPH  
MR. A. STOCKIL

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

The Committee whose names are before you, after careful consideration of the various schemes suggested, have decided on the following as the Settle War Memorial :

1st. *The erection of an Obelisk in the Market Place, on the site of the Fountain, having Bronze Tablets inset bearing the names of the fallen.*

(A drawing of the above as it will appear when completed will be exhibited).

2nd. *The purchase, if funds will allow, or rental for as long as the funds will permit, of a Piece of Land for a Children's Play-ground.*

To successfully carry out these two schemes it is estimated that about £1,000 will be required.

It is hoped that **everyone** will give to the Fund, the men who have fallen gave their lives **for all**, and this Memorial will perpetuate the memories and names of our gallant dead for all time.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them."

Yours faithfully,

T. L. HETHERINGTON,

*Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.*

J. WARDLE DALES,

*Assistant Sec.*

To the Hon. Treasurer,

**SETTLE WAR MEMORIAL FUND,**  
London Joint City and Midland Bank Ltd.,  
Duke Street, **SETTLE.**

I enclose £ : : as a donation to the Fund.

Signature .....

(An acknowledgment will be duly forwarded.)

Address .....

**Donations may be paid in to any of the Local Banks.**

The Hon. Treasurer,

**SETTLE WAR MEMORIAL FUND,**

London Joint City & Midland Bank Limited,

Duke Street,

**SETTLE.**

1920  
SETTLE  
RURAL COUNCIL.

The Clerk reported that three captured German guns had arrived for Settle, Ingleton and Bentham. He asked what should be done with the gun allocated to Settle. It had been in the Market Place since its arrival until the previous day, when, owing to complaints, it had been removed. It was decided to leave the question to the Settle Parish Council.

1920  
STAINFORTH.

WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED.

On Sunday afternoon in St. Peter's Church, a large congregation assembled to witness the unveiling and dedication of the brass tablet erected to the memory of the men who made the supreme sacrifice during the late war. The tablet is a splendid piece of brass work; the names are executed in raised letters, and are surrounded by a floral design. The memorial is fixed to a dark oak board on the south wall of the church. The inscription has been so well executed that it can be seen quite plainly from the other side of the church. It reads as follows: "To the Glory of God and in proud and loving memory of the men named below who made the supreme sacrifice 1914-1918.

T. M. Birtle, Jas. H. Greenbank, A. Greenbank, W. T. Stackhouse, G. Towler, A. Wilson, T. Wilson.

"It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country."

The service, which took the form of shortened Evensong, was conducted by the Vicar, Rev. J. G. Exton, while Mr. A. Hackblock read the lesson.

The memorial was unveiled by Colonel Birkbeck, who remarked that those men had sacrificed their lives in order that justice should not be beaten by brute force. He trusted that we who were left would work together in true comradeship and endeavour to live for the purpose for which they died. One day in each year should be set apart to honour these men and keep their great sacrifice in remembrance.

After the tablet had been unveiled, the Rev. W. E. Linney, M.A., rural dean, said: "We dedicate this tablet to the Glory of God. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost." The Rural Dean afterwards gave an address.

**Reading Room Dance.**—On Wednesday evening, April 7th, the members of the Reading Room held a dance in the New Hall. The Settle Comrades' Band provided the music. The proceeds were for the Reading Room fund.

**Comrades' Movement.**—The annual meeting of the members of the Settle Branch of the Comrades of the Great War Association was held in the Club Room on Wednesday of last week. Lieut.-Colonel Birkbeck occupied the chair. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. Walter Morrison; committee, Messrs. T. Bradley, W. Earnshaw, W. Barwick, W. J. Robinson, R. Rawdin, P. Chaffer, J. Robinson and W. J. Wallace; trustees, Lieut.-Colonel Birkbeck, Captain Broughton and Mr. P. C. Cresswell; treasurer, Mr. A. E. Smith; secretary, Mr. T. H. Edmondson; auditor, Mr. T. H. Hetherington. The secretary explained that there were 157 members on the books and 10 associates, and the Chairman referred to the success of the billiards team in winning the District Billiard League Cup.

PARISH COUNCIL & LIGHTING MEETINGS.

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, the members present being Messrs. P. M. Ralph (chairman), F. L. Band, A. R. Bilton, J. W. Daes, J. Fletcher, J. Hancock, J. Harrison, F. J. Kelly, J. Parker, J. Redmayne, E. E. Roberts, with the clerk (Mr. H. Bolt).—The clerk (Mr. H. Bolt) made an application for an increase of salary on the ground that the work had increased and that according to the salaries of other Parish Council clerks he was underpaid.—Mr. Dales: I do not know when this vicious circle is going to be broken. Everybody who does a pennyworth of work wants one penny.—It was decided that the application for a salary of £20 (an increase of £10) per annum be granted.—A letter was read from the Clerk to the District Council asking the Parish Council to take over a gun which had been presented to the town.—Mr. Dales: Would it be in order to pass a resolution to sell it for scrap iron?—Chairman: I should not like to do that.—It was resolved that the letter lie on the table. As regards a machine gun, which the Chairman stated he had also received, it was decided that it be offered to the Giggleswick School Museum.—Correspondence was read regarding allotments, the County Land Agent stating that with regard to the occupation of land the matter was being pushed forward with all possible speed.

SETTLE NATIONAL SCHOOL

MEMORIAL TABLET FUND.

A scheme for the erection in School of a Tablet, as a tribute to all former Scholars who served in the Great War, was begun in 1915. For various reasons, however, the matter had to be left in abeyance, but is now being carried through.

It was originally intended to record the names of ALL who took part, but owing to the great number and the consequent expense it has been decided that only those who gave their lives shall be mentioned by name.

A small sum of money was subscribed at the inception of the scheme, but this is totally inadequate to furnish a sufficiently worthy tablet for the purpose, consequently vigorous steps are being taken to raise the necessary funds.

The first effort will be a

JUMBLE SALE,

In the Schools, on SATURDAY, May 15th, 1920.

For this your help is earnestly desired. You can help in three ways:—

1. By giving anything you do not want.
2. By attending the sale to buy what you do want.
3. By remembering the object of the sale.

A house to house collection of goods will take place on WEDNESDAY, MAY 12th. Will you have something ready to give? It matters not how small or how large. What you do not need someone else may be requiring.

Remember the two dates:

- 12th May ... House to house collection of goods.  
15th May ... Sale.

J. W. Lambert, Printer, Settle.

1920  
SETTLE RURAL COUNCIL.

Those German Guns.

The Bentham Parish Council wrote accepting the charge of a captured German gun. A communication from the Parish Council of Settle intimated that this authority had decided not to accept a gun.

The Clerk suggested that the gun refused by Settle should be offered to Giggleswick or Langcliffe Parish Councils.

It was finally decided, however, to ask Mr. Geoffrey Dawson, of Langcliffe Hall, to accept it.

Dissolution of Food Control Committees.

A communication from the Food Commissioner stated that although Food Control Committees would be dissolved on June 30th, it was proposed that the work should be continued by district officers, one of whom would be at Settle. The Council were, therefore, asked to provide office accommodation at a nominal rental. The letter added that it was uncertain as to how long control would continue.

The receipt of a letter from the Ministry of Food, thanking the Food Control Committee for their work, was announced.

It was decided to provide office accommodation as requested.

**Meritorious Service Medal.**—On Monday last Regt. Quarter-Master-Sergt. T. A. Bulcock, of Victoria Street, Settle, received from Record Office, Lichfield, the Meritorious Service Medal, accompanied by a notification that it had been awarded to him for valuable services rendered in India during the war. Mr. Bulcock enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's Regt. in 1914 and was afterwards transferred to the 1st Garrison Battalion South Staffordshire Regt., with whom he served 2 years and 7 months in India, being finally demobilised in February, 1920. Mr. Bulcock's two sons also enlisted at the commencement of the war, and unfortunately the eldest son, Corp. Frank Bulcock, was killed in action with the 1/6th Bata. Duke of Wellington's Regt., during a gas attack on 19th December, 1915. The younger son, Charles, served throughout the war with the 1/6th Bata. Duke of Wellington's Regt. Mr. Bulcock is to be congratulated on his and his family's war record.

**Recruiting at Settle.**—In connection with the movement that is being pursued locally to reconstruct the Territorial Army, a meeting was held at the Drill Hall on Monday evening, at which Colonel Bateman, D.S.O., explained the new conditions of service with this arm of the Forces. He stated that at present it was proposed that the Battalion would consist of four Companies, and that the Settle and Guiseley contingents should be amalgamated as they were before going abroad. He would be very pleased to see a strong lot of recruits from Settle and if possible a Company formed there.—The meeting was not very largely attended, and only about half a dozen expressed their willingness to rejoin. Amongst those present were Col. Birkbeck, Captain Peter Smith, Captain and Adjutant Stokes, Captain G. Broughton, and Lieutenant and Quartermaster Churchman. Colonel Birkbeck, in supporting the movement, stated that the next camp would in all probability be at the seaside. He advocated the appointment of a recruiting committee for the district.

## SETTLE WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

“LEST WE FORGET.”

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SETTLE,

MARCH, 1920.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

A Circular Appeal was recently addressed to the residents of Settle asking for subscriptions towards the erection of a Cenotaph in memory of the gallant men from this town who fell in the Great War.

The object is one that appeals to all as it is probable that there is not a single household that does not mourn the death of some loved member of the family or dear friend, and it is the universal feeling that some memorial, worthy of the glorious dead, should perpetuate their names to future generations. It will be some comfort to the bereaved ones to feel that the memory of their sons, husbands or fathers have a warm place in the hearts of those on whose behalf they made the supreme sacrifice.

Settle did its duty in a manner worthy of its ancient reputation. The flower of its manhood ungrudgingly gave up their civil avocations and took their place in the ranks of those who faced the foe on the field of battle, or kept watch and ward on our coasts to repel any invasion that might be attempted, or assisted in the manufacture of munitions, or in other ways rendered service to their country in the hour of trial.

It is hoped that those whose kin returned safely will, out out of gratitude for their escape from the perils and dangers of war, contribute to the memorial to those who have passed away, whilst the Committee feel that there is but little need to bespeak the sympathy and support of all the men who served and survived, to the proposal to reverently and gratefully record the names of their noble comrades.

As yet the subscribers to the Fund do not number a hundred, and it must be frankly admitted that this does not come up to the expectations that had been formed. Hence this further appeal is being made, and it is hoped that the response thereto will be both general and liberal. It is possible that some may prefer to be waited upon personally, and a house-to-house canvass will shortly be made of those who have not sent any subscription by that time. But it should be clearly understood that all donations, however small, will be thankfully received. For such an object there should be no refusals, although it is possible that some may have preferred the Memorial to take some other form than the proposed Cenotaph.

Donations may be sent to the Honorary Treasurer or paid in at any of the local Banks on or before the 5th of April, and may, if so desired, be sent anonymously.

Yours faithfully,

T. L. HETHERINGTON,

*Hon. Sec. and Treas.*

J. WARDLE DALES,

*Assistant Secretary.*

To the Hon. Treasurer,

SETTLE WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd.,

Duke Street, SETTLE.

I enclose £ : : as a donation to the Fund.

Signature .....

Address .....

(An acknowledgment will be duly forwarded.)

Donations may be paid in to any of the Local Banks.

## SETTLE WAR MEMORIAL.

A COMMITTEE MEETING will be held

in the TOWN HALL, on

Thursday

at 8 o'clock

T. L. HETHERINGTON,

*Hon. Sec.*