

Commemorating the beginning of World War 1

Civic Service to remember the beginning of World War 1 was held on Sunday 10th August.

At the beginning of the service members of the congregation read out memories



During the service a new British Legion plaque was dedicated

FAMILY MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR I

BISHOP FAMILY MEMORIES

My grandfather, John Bishop, but known as Jack, hailed from a crofting family of Ystradgynlais in the Welsh valleys. He became a competent engineer, assembling Maudsley cars in Coventry and later was chauffeur to Lady Rayleigh and her Maudsley car at Beaufront Castle just two miles from Corbridge.

When called up in 1914 his engineering experience was put to use in a tank servicing depot. No doubt he was very surprised to be put in charge of the 450 men. One day he was called to Head Office and was appalled on his return to find that most of his men had been wounded or killed by a German bomb. In 1916 he was granted two weeks leave to be with his wife and son in their little house at Beaufront Wood Head.

Several years ago I was walking with my father, (Jack's son) on the minor road from Fawcett Hill to Beaufront Wood Head where in 1916 my father was a seven year old pupil at the school. He pointed to a field beside the road saying "That's the field where my father and I picked mushrooms when he came home on leave". I have often felt for my grandfather when he had to leave behind his wife and son at beautiful Beaufront and return to the conflict but he was one of the fortunate who survived the war. Throughout the rest of his life he was tormented by the thought that he should have died with his engineers in the workshop.

TONY MACDONALD REMEMBERS:

My father, Charles Auld Macdonald, was a soldier fighting in two of the largely forgotten campaigns of the 1st World War and talked about hardships very different from those experienced in France.

He was in South Africa at the outbreak of war, and enlisted as a Trooper in the South African Mounted Rifles, formed out of mainly Boer War veterans – Afrikaaners – who had little love for the British (or for a young Englishman who as an engineer had never ridden a horse). The war they fought was against a well equipped but badly led German force in South West Africa (now Namibia) Much of the campaign was fought in desert / semi-desert terrain – extreme heat, sand and dust, flies, little water. That campaign was waged on behalf of the allies of that reluctant force because of the leadership of General Smuts, a Boer War leader, who could see that the future did not lie with Germany and victory would mean that German South West Africa could be annexed by his South African state.

The German defeat in 1916 saw my father's regiment transferred to German East Africa (now mainland Tanzania) to join a very large British / Belgian/ Indian army being opposed by a small highly mobile German guerrilla force, living off the land. Much of the country was thick, thorny, bush with wild animals, tsetse fly (carrying fatal horse disease so 'mounted' soldiers had to fight on foot) - long forced marches following an elusive enemy who might pop up anywhere in that very large country. This went on through dry and wet seasons until a month after the armistice, when the German commander agreed to surrender.

My father having enlisted as a Trooper, ended the war as a Junior Officer in the King's African Rifles. He suffered recurrent malaria first contracted as soon as he got to East Africa and a digestive system which never recovered from the Namibian desert sand in the food.

Buthe so loved Africa he spent the rest of his life there!!

MARSHALL FAMILY MEMORIES

At the time of the First World War my grandfather, Gilbert Marshall and granny Ellen, had four sons; my father being the third. There was a large family group as my granny was the eldest of five sisters and five brothers.

The demand for war service caused big changes in a farming family: the elder of her sisters, Elizabeth, became a nurse working at an army hospital in England; the elder of her brothers George ran the Blackwood farm, her next brother John became a Commander in the Royal Navy, her fourth brother James was a dispensing chemist and, having emigrated to Canada, joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, her fifth brother Joseph joined the Irish Guards. Out of the five boys, three saw active service in the War, one stepped into the shoes of his father and the last was a dentist in Armagh.

John survived the war in his Navy service but James and Joseph were both killed. James in 1917 when, in a freak accident, a German aviator with engine trouble jettisoned his load of aerial bombs and hit directly the field hospital he was working in, Joseph was killed in France in 1918 just days before Victory was declared.

These young men, my grand Uncles, were remembered in my father's family with the naming of one of his younger brothers James, and another Joseph Victor whose birthday was close to Victory Day.

The Great War changed also the lives of my grand Aunts in that three out of the four remained maiden.

Somewhere in the family archives there is a photograph taken just at the outbreak of war; a happy scene with my grand Aunt Ida, a pretty girl of twenty one, playing a baby grand piano and looking longingly at a young man in uniform, who is singing a song to entertain the dinner guests.

After the Great War many of those young men never returned, and my Grand Aunts Elizabeth, Sally and Ida continued in their wartime jobs but devotedly kept alive the memories of their fallen friends and brothers.

GRAHAM FAMILY MEMORIES

My grandfather went to war, giving a false age which apparently was quite common at that time. He joined the Durham Light Infantry and was sent to the trenches in France. In his first encounter he was gassed, later on he was shot in the thigh with shrapnel.

At the time they were behind enemy lines, on the orders to retreat, he was lying unable to move, his friend from Wallsend said to teh Captain ' What about Lance Corporal Graham sir?' 'Leave him' was the reply. 'get out'.

His friend didn't leave him but with help, strapped him on an artillery gun barrel as there was no other form of transport and he was eventually hauled back to safety. He was shipped back to London where he recovered nd was sent home to Newcastle.

He worked in the coal mines for the rest of his life and died in 1948 at the age of 51. Had it not been for his friend from Wallsend, the present Graham family would not have existed.

John William Graham (named after Grandad)

My proudest possessions are his World War 1 medals.

GILL MACDONALD REMEMBERS:

In 1917 my father left school aged 17 and a half, he and his classmates all boys (30 boys in the class) went straight down to the recruiting office in their small town and saying they were all 18 signed on in the Essex Yeomanry. After a short spell of drill and exercises my father decided to sign on for the Royal Flying Corps and was 'flying Camel's'. After an intensive few weeks of training he was passed to pilot the plane solo for the first time, and almost immediately he and his plane the most fragile looking contraption were sent to France. The life of a pilot in France at that time was said to be three weeks. Just after that period and having flown several sorties each day my father was shot down and managed to land in a field behind enemy lines, where he was captured and interned for the last 3 months of the war. Existing in a communal cell, fed on cabbage soup, in a bucket twice a day.

On return home he discovered that our of his class of 30 boys only he and one other boy had survived.

EVELYN CHARLTON'S FATHER'S FIRST WORLD WAR EXPERIENCE

James Isaac Green 1896—1982 Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve , Royal Naval Division possible forerunner of the Royal Marines.

WAR SERVICE

GALLIPOLI landed on Y beach (British Landing) when the campaign ended they thought they were going home.

France and the Battle of the Somme followed. Wounded in Beaucourt, France, sustained serious left arm/ elbow shell wound. Long spells in hospital Portland and Bristol. Left arm left permanently damaged.

Discharged 1917

Strangely and quite by chance, James met his older brother in France. John and a cousin were serving in the same line with tenth Green Howards (Yorkshire Regiment). Sadly, it was a final reunion, both men were killed during the next 'Big Push' as it was called.

My grandparents received three devastating telegrams within three months two sons gone and one seriously wounded.

The last letter of Herbert Houghton, age 26

On Active Service
With the British Expeditionary Force
Near Albert France
Saturday 1st. July 1916

Dear Father and Mother and all,

As I am expecting "to go over the top" (i.e. to join in rushing German trenches) within the next few days and may therefore never have the joy of seeing you all once again on earth, I am writing to tell you once more how much I love you all and to remind you that if you get news of my death in action, it will not be long before we shall meet again in Heaven, because we are all members of the body of Christ and are all united in our love to Him, believing and knowing as we do that our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, gave Himself once for all on Calvary as a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for our sins.

It is a glorious thing just now, when I can hear our guns pounding away at the German lines, and know that though I am now a few miles to the rear, - I shall soon (possibly within a few hours) be in the thick of it, - to know that I am perfectly safe because "to me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Don't be sad if I am killed, but rejoice in the victory for our armies, because our cause is a righteous one. I shall be proud and glad to die in such a cause, though naturally if I had my own natural selfish will I should prefer a longer life.

And remember that quite soon (in God's time if not in ours) we shall all see each other again. I hope that you will all have long happy lives of service, and then meet me up above.

I have been a little worried, because I have not been able to write often since we left Rouen.

I am so sorry if you have been anxious.

Give my love to Miss Cowan and all friends. Perhaps you would not mind writing notes to all to whom photos of me were sent.

Best love to you all, Father, Mother, Elsie, Eileen, Frank, Alfred, Lydia, Stanley and "Monkey"(!)

Your loving son and brother

Herbert Houghton

Au revoir!

P.S. Sunday evening July 2nd.

Have just heard that we shall go into action tomorrow (Monday July 3rd) morning.

Best love to you all once more. H.H.

Reported as buried near Ovillers, N.E. of Albert

David Burnett Chairman of the British Legion read out the names of all those from Corbridge who died during the First World War.



Corbridge WWI Memorial List

ALDRED. H.W

Lived At Howden Dean

ALLCROFT. MATHEW

Born and Enlisted Corbridge

Sgt 4th Nth Fusiliers

Died Of Wounds 17th April 1918 Aged 26

ALLCROFT. WILLIAM

Born Corbridge

Cqms 10th Battalion

Killed In Action 12th October 1917 Aged 28

ARMSTRONG. H.

ATKIN. ROBERT

Born Princes Street and Enlisted Corbridge

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 15th September 1916 At The Somme
Aged 20

BELL. JOSEPH

Born Corbridge Lived At St Wilfreds Road

Pte Army Transport

Died Of Illness 18th July 1918 In East Africa Egypt

BLACKBURN. WILLIAM

Lived At Orchard Crescent Enlisted Corbridge

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Died Of Wounds 8th December 1916

BOWMAN. CHARLES (MILITARY MEDAL)

Born Corbridge Lived St Helens House Aydon Road

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Died Of Wounds 28th May 1918

BOWMAN. FREDERICK. ROCHESTER

Born Corbridge Lived St Helens House Aydon Road

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 13th January 1918 Aged 24

BOYED. J.T.

1st Leicestershires

Killed In Action 11th October 1918

BUDDLES. J.

Lived Ravenstone

Killed In Action 22nd July 1915 Aged 32

BURNS.W.S.

BURNS. GEORGE WILLIAM

Lived The Crofts
Sgt 4th Nth Fusiliers
Died Of Wounds 22nd July 1915 Aged 32

BROWN.J.GEORGE

Pte 13th Bn Dli
Killed In Action 13th October 1915 Aged 26

BRYANT. REGINALD

Lived The Hayes
Capt Dli
Killed In Action January 1917

BYRES. B.**CADE. CHARLES**

Lived Howden Dean
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 15th September 1916

CADE. JOHN. EDWARD

Lived Howden Dean
Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 26th April 1915 At Ypre

CAMERON. DAVID

Lived In New Zealand Formerly At Byethorne
Pte New Zealanders
Killed In Action 13th April 1918

CHAMBERS. JOHN

Lived Princes Street
4th Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 15th September 1916 Aged 20

Two Of The Following 3 Brothers Were Killed 16 Days
Apart

The Third 6 Months Later All In Flanders Fields

CHARLTON. EDWARD

Lived Princes Street
1/5th Bn Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 26th October 1917 Aged 27

CHARLTON. JOHN. WILLIAM

Lived Princes Street
Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 10th October 1917

CHARLTON. ROBERT

Lived Princes Street
Trooper Nth Hussars Later 9th Bn Nth Fusiliers
Died Of Wounds 22nd April 1918

COATS H.W.**COWARD. G.****CROZIER. WILLIAM**

Lived At Chantry Farm Stagshaw
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 20th October 1918 Aged 32

CUTHBERT. WILLIAM

Lived Hill Street
Killed In Action 27th May 1918

DANIELS.J.**DANIELS.H.****DAVIDSON.HERBERT**

Born Hill Street
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 14th April 1917 Aged 31

DAWSON .W.**DENT. MELVIN**

Pte Canadian Battalion
Killed In Action 8th October 1916

DIXON. JACK

Sgt Nth Fusiliers

DODD.H.**DODDS. JOHN**

Lived Hill Street
Pte Yeomanry
Killed In Action 1st December 1917

DODDS. W.M.**DOUGLAS. A.W.**

Lived Prior Mains
Pte Ncl Bn Royal Fusiliers
Killed In Action 2nd July 1916 At The Somme Aged
22

ELLISON. THOMAS. GEORGE

Lived Market Place
Pte 50th Cyclists Div
Killed In Action 24th May 1915 Aged 21

ELLISON. JOHN. STANLEY

Lived Hill Street
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Died Of Wounds 7th October 1917 Aged 19

ELLERINGTON. ROBERT

Lived Hill Street

FETHERSTONE. JOHN. W.

Lived Dilston
Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers
Died Of Wounds 17th September 1916 At The Somme

FORSTER. SURTEES

Lived Watling Street
Sgt 4th Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 15th September 1916 At The Somme
Aged 23

GIBB. ROBERT ALEXANDER

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 15th September 1916 At The Somme

GIBBON. HARRY

Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 7th September 1918

GOODSON. H.**GOODYEAR.H.****GOODYEAR.E.****GRAHAM.R.****GREENER. NICHOLAS**

Lived St Helens Place
Killed In Action 27th October 1918 In Italy Aged 20

GUY. WILLIAM.E. (MILITARY MEDAL)

Lived Princes Street
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 14th June 1917

HALL. JOHN. JOSEPH.

Lived Stagshawbank
4th Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 1st October 1918 Aged 31

HAMILTON. EDWIN.

Lived Princes Street
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Died Of Wounds 31st March 1916

HARDY. ROBERT.WILLIAM.

Lived Eastfield Cottages
Pte Nth Fusiliers (Lewis Gun Station)
Killed In Action 29th September 1918 Aged 21

HESLOP.E.D.

Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action July 1918

HETHERINGTON.C.B.

Lived Station Cottages
Lilled In Action May 1915 At Ypres

HORNSBY.R.**HUDSPETH. HUGH**

Lived At Woodbine Terrace
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action April 1915

HUDSPETH. THOMAS. WILLIAM

Lance Corpral Royal Engineers
Lived At West Terrace
Killed In Action 17th May 1916

JACKSON.JAKE.

Lived At St Helens Street
Sgt Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 30th November 1917 Aged 26

JONES. WALTER

Lived At Stagshaw Bank
Pte Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action November 1918

JOWSEY. ARTHUR

Lived At Prospect Hill
Pte Signaler 4th Nth Fusiliers
Killed In Action 26th April 1915 At Ypres

LAING.A.O.

Lived At Farnley Grange

LAING. DUDLEY.OGILVIE.

Lived At Farnley Grange

Captain

Killed In Action 1st July 1916 At The Somme

LAING. GEORGE. OGILVIE.

Lived At Farnley Grange

LAMB. J.C.**LAWSON. JOHN. G.**

L/Cpl Canadian Battalion

Killed In Action 4th November 1917

LEE. J.W.

Lived At Bythorn

Lieutenant R.A.F.

Killed In Action April 1917

LOGAN. ALBERT.

Lived Orchard View

L/Cpl

Killed In Action 26th October 1917

LONGSTAFF. THOMAS.

Lived At Stagshawbank

Pte Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 24th May 1915

LOWES. NICHOLAS.

Lived Middle Street

Pte Nth Fusiliers

Died Of Illness At Ashington 2nd February 1916 Aged 46

MADDISON. FRED.L.

L/Cpl Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 15th September 1916

MAIL.FRANK.OSWALD.

Lived Roecliff Lodge

2nd Lieutenant A.R.F.

Killed In Action 9th October 1917 Aged 24

MARSHALL.ISSAC. DUNN.

Lived At The Tynedale Hotel

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 15th September 1916

MARTISON. MATHEW.

Born Middle Street

L/Cpl Canadians

Killed In Action 15th September 1916

MITCHINSON. MATTHEW.

Pte Anzacs

Killed In Action 1915 At Dardanells

NAITBY. ARTHUR.

Pte 6th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 26th April 1915 At Ypres

NICHOLSON. JOSEPH.T.

Lived In Front Street

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action September 1918

NICHOLSON. THOMAS.

Lived In The Market Place

Pte Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 25th April 1917

NOBLE.T.**PARKER. H.G.****PEARSON. JOSEPH.**

Lived In Front Street

L/Cpl 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 3rd July 1916 At The Somme

POLLARD. C.**PORTLOCK. WILLIAM.A.**

Lived Eastfield Cottages

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 27th August 1918 Aged 19

RICHARDSON.F.A.**RICHEY.T.S.****ROBINSON. JOHN.**

Lived At Prospect Cottages

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action November 1916

ROBINSON.ERNEST.HENRY.

Lived In Middle Street

Pte Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 26th February 1916 (Shot By A Sniper)

ROBSON. FRANK.

ROBSON. G.D.

ROBSON. JOHN. J.

Pte Nth Fusiliers

Died Of Wounds September 1916

ROBSON. JOSEPH. WILLIAM.

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 18th October 1916

ROGERSON. ROBERT.

Lived At Hillbank Farm

Pte Royal Scots

Killed In Action March 1918

SCOTT. T.E.

SCOTT. VICTOR. ELTON.

Sgt 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 24th April 1915 At Ypres

SMITH. N.

SMITH. R.E.

SMITH. T.

KILLED IN ACTION OCTOBER 1916

STEELE. ROBERT. JAMES.

Lived At Anick Grange

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 4th October 1915 Aged 23

STROTHARD. JOHN.WILLIAM.

Pte 2nd Yorkshires

Killed In Action 7th November 1918

SIMPSON. JOSEPH.

Lived Middle Street

Pte Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action October 1917

TAIT. THOMAS.

Lived At Halton

Pte 9th Fusiliers

Killed In Action 25th September 1918

THOMPSON. WILLIAM.

Lived At Orchard View

Pte Royal Fusiliers

Died Of Wounds 12th July 1916 At The Somme

TURNBULL. WILLIAM.A.

Lived At Prior Manor

2nd Lieutenant 2nd Bedfordshires

Killed In Action 14th November 1916

TURNER. JOHN.

Pte 1/5th Battalion

Killed In Action 26th October 1917

TWEDDLE. W.G

WADE. WILLIAM.

Lived At Woodbine Terrace

Sgt 4th Nth Fusiliers

Died Of Wounds 31st January 1916 Aged 25 (Shell Splinters)

WARD. ARTHUR. ERNEST.

Lived Main Street

Captain South Africans

Killed In Action April 1917

WHITMORE. ARTHUR.

Lived Windsor Terrace

Pte 4th Nth Fusiliers

Killed In Action 22nd November 1917 Aged 19

WINDER. JAMES.

Pte Dli

Killed In Action 15th September 1916 At The Somme

WYLIE. ALEXANDER.

Scots Kilted Regiment

Killed In Action 15th September 1916

