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This guide provides an introductory outline to some of the fascinating collections we hold relating to the First World War.

Although we have thoroughly searched our holdings, please note that this list is not exhaustive and that there may be more information to be found on the First World War in local authority, school, charity and church collections.

If you would like to know more about West Yorkshire Archive Service, please check our website at

<http://www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-services/> or visit our offices in

Bradford, Calderdale (Halifax), Kirklees (Huddersfield), Leeds and Wakefield.

To find out more about these documents check our online collections catalogue at

<http://www.catalogue.wyjs.org.uk/calmview/>

(The number in brackets at the start of each entry is the catalogue finding number)

Documents held at WYAS, Bradford

War Memorials and Rolls of Honour

(15D92) 1922 Programme for the unveiling of the Bradford War Memorial

The War Memorial was unveiled on Saturday 1 July 1922. The monument was designed by Walter Williamson the City Architect, and is in the form of a cenotaph built from locally quarried stone from Bolton Woods Quarry. High on the front, the cross symbolises 'sacrifice', and a wreath containing the words 'Pro Patri Mori' (they died for their country) symbolises 'grief'. Two bronze figures of a soldier and a sailor are realistically represented, lunging forward with their rifles. The monument was unveiled on the 6th anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme when the Bradford 'Pals' Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment suffered massive and severe casualties. The Roll of Honour contained 37,000 names, an astounding figure when it is realised that the crowd attending the unveiling numbered 40,000, just 3,000 more than the men listed. Lieutenant Colonel Alderman Anthony Gadie, who served in France and was a former Lord Mayor of Bradford, carried out the official commemoration, with a dedication read by the Vicar of Bradford, Archdeacon W Stanton Jones (further information can be found at: <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Yorkshire/Bradford.html>, accessed 18/04/13).

(24D83) 1921 Papers relating to the Bradford Roll of Honour (See 7D91 below)

(30D87) 1918 Wibsey Wesleyan Reform Chapel Roll of Honour

This chapel has been demolished but the Roll of Honour - on a sheet of paper - has been removed from its frame, folded into four and deposited (further information can be found at: http://www.sblha.com/whh_war.html, accessed 18/04/13).

(7D91) 1914-1918 Bradford Council, Roll of Honour (alphabetical index cards)

(WYB105/1) c1914 Photographs from the Roll of Honour for Tennyson Place/Tennyson Bethesda Chapel with names written on the back (comprises 62 photographs)

(BDP46/6/1/4) 12 November 1921 Faculty for the First World War Memorial, with detailed coloured plan/drawing and letter (forms part of the Greengates St John the Evangelist parish records)

This First World War Memorial, erected in 1921, was designed and executed by E Wright of Greengates and L F Roslyn of South Kensington, London. It consists of a square column in white Portland stone with a carved top on a stepped sandstone base, surmounted by a winged figure in

bronze. The leading face bears an incised inscription "IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE MEN OF GREENGATES AND DISTRICT WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919", with a bronze laurel wreath above. On the three other sides are bronze-coloured plaques with 80 names (further information can be found at: <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-491096-greengates-war-memorial-in-garden-of-rem>, accessed 18/04/13).

(BDP35/12/1) 1916 Illustrated Roll of Honour (forms part of the Buttershaw St Paul parish records)

Record books, diaries and letters

(DB39/C30/8) 1917-1920 Record book for Lieutenant Harry Lee, rifleman in King's Royal Rifle Corps

R/11731 Rifleman, Harry Lee, 7th Bn. King's Royal Rifle Corps., 11/05/1917, aged 22. London Cemetery, Neuville-Vitasse (including a picture of Harry Lee) (further information can be found at: http://www.wv1cemeteries.com/In%20memory/In%20Memory%20Ext/roll_of_honour_1.htm, accessed 18/04/13).

(67D84) 1917-1918 War Diary (copy) of J H Moore, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Private King's Shropshire Light Infantry 6th Bn. Age: 30 Date of Death: 25/09/1918 Service No: 27091 B 8 (further information can be found at: <http://www.inmemories.com/Cemeteries/avesnesurhelpe.htm>, accessed 18/04/13).

(72D83) 1915 Gilbert Robinson, soldier, letter to his mother

(66D81) 1916-1918 War diary (copy) of Harry Smith, Bradford

(WYB168/6) 1916-1919 Reginald Fawcett, records including copy diary 1918

Reginald Hanson Fawcett was a sapper in the 15th Division Signal Company, Royal Engineers. These documents were either created or collected by himself whilst serving in France. Some of the material pertains to movements in Soissons whilst working with the French XX Corps in July-August 1918. 15th Divisional Signals Company. The Royal Engineers provided communications for 15th (Scottish) Division. 15th (Scottish) Division was formed in September 1914, as part of Kitchener's Second New Army. They proceeded to France in July 1915 and were in action in the Battle of Loos. In spring 1916 they were involved in the German gas attacks near Hulluch and the defence of the Kink position. They fought in the Battles of the Somme, including the Battle of Pozieres, the Battle of Flers-Courcelette and the capture of Martinpuich, the Battle of Le Transloy and the attacks on the Butte de Warlencourt. In 1917 they were in action in the First and Second battle of the Scarpe. They then

moved north to Flanders and were in action during the Battle of Pilckem and the Battle of Langemark. In 1918 they fought in the First Battle of Bapaume, the First Battle of Arras, the Battle of the Soissonnais and the Ourcq, taking part in the attack on Buzancy, and the final advance in Artois (further information can be found at: <http://www.wartimemoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/royalengineers15divsigcoy-gw.php>, accessed 22/04/13).

The Royal Engineers carried out a number of different roles for the army both in the battlefield and along the lines of communication. The various specialisms were organised into different types of units, none of which was bigger than a Company in size. These units were attached to Divisions, or to larger formations at Corps, Army or even GHQ. The main ones, of which there were many, were the Field Companies and the Signals Companies. These Companies often saw action and took part in the fighting. The Divisions in the early part of the war also had on their strength two Fortress Companies and works units for bridging and lines of communication. In November 1914, the Royal Engineers was composed of almost 17,000 officers and 340,000 other ranks. Signals Company RE - In 1914 each Infantry Division included a Signals Company with a total strength of 162 men. It was organised into a Company HQ and 4 Sections, of which No 1 Section was responsible for communications with Divisional HQ and Nos 2-4 with the Brigades of the Division. The Signals Companies relied on horses for transport and had an establishment of 33 riding horses plus 47 draught heavy and 4 pack horses. There were also 32 bicycles and 9 motorcycles. With the exception of the Trumpeter, all other ranks were armed as infantrymen, carrying the SMLE rifle (further information can be found at: <http://www.1914-1918.net/whatfieldcoy.htm>, accessed 18/04/13).

(70D84) 1915-1916 Diary (copy) of Private Fred Conquest, 18/553 18th West Yorkshire Regiment

18th (Service) Battalion (2nd Bradford). Formed in Bradford on 22 January 1915 by the Lord Mayor and City (further information can be found at: <http://www.1914-1918.net/westyorks.htm>, accessed 19/04/13). In June 1915 they were attached to 93rd Brigade, 31st Division. The 18th were disbanded in France on 15 February 1918 (further information can be found at: <http://www.wartimemories.co.uk/greatwar/allied/westyorkshireregiment-gw.html>, accessed 19/04/13).

(67D89) 1915-1916 Diary (copy) of John H Taylor of the 6th West Yorkshire Regiment

The 1/6th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), a territorial battalion, was in Bradford in August 1914 when war broke out. On 10 August they moved to Selby, and at the end of the month to Strenshall. In late October they moved to York, and in March 1915 they moved to Gainsborough before proceeding to France, sailing from Folkestone on 15 of April 1915, and landing at Boulogne with the 146th Brigade, 49th (West Riding) Division. They served on the Western Front

throughout the conflict, seeing action at Aubers Ridge, on the Somme, the Flanders Coast, in the Third Battle of Ypres, the Battle of the Lys and the final advance in Picardy (further information can be found at: <http://www.1914-1918.net/westyorks.htm>, accessed 19/04/13 and <http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/westyorkshireregiment6.php>, accessed 19/04/13).

(94D85/5/1/8/1) 15 May 1917 Notification to Mrs Sarah Briggs of 51, Norman Drive, Eccleshill of the death of Lance Corporal Henry Briggs of the 2/7th Duke of Wellington (West Riding Regiment)

2/7th Battalion was formed at Milnsbridge in September 1914 as a "second line" unit. 1 March 1915: came under orders of 186th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division. Moved to Thoresby Park (Ollerton) in May 1915. Moved in October 1915 to Retford, November 1915 to Newcastle, January 1916 to Salisbury Plain, June 1916 Halesworth, October 1916 to Bedford. Landed in France in January 1917. 18 June 1918: reduced to cadre strength. Cadre returned to England and was absorbed into 29th Bn, the Durham Light Infantry (further information can be found at: <http://www.1914-1918.net/dukes.htm>, accessed 19/04/13).

(94D85/28/31) 18 April 1917 Administration of the goods and effects of Ralph Heslop Mitton, deceased, of 44 Colebrook Avenue, West Ealing, Middlesex, private in His Majesty's Army, died 3 June 1916 on active service in Flanders

Granted to his mother Phoebe Mitton, widow. Includes transcription of his last letter written to his mother, while on active service (14 Jan 1916 and taken as his will), and copy of his death certificate.

(47D75/6/3/26) May 1916 Letters and postcard from Paul Bausor of Ely to W P Richardson informing him that his son 2nd Lieutenant Thomas P Bausor of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry had been killed in action in France

Second Lieutenant, 9th Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry attached Trench Mortar Battery. Killed in action 6 April 1916. Commemorated on YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 47 and 49 (further information can be found at: <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Cambridgeshire/CambridgePerseSchool.html>, accessed 19/04/13).

(10D76/3/506) 1869-1924 Wills, articles of partnership and related papers, including letters to Mrs E P Delius who was in Germany during the First World War

(DB39/C31/8) Apr 1965 Letters written between G Hudson of Dewsbury, Bradford Chief Librarian, and Edward Appleton of Edinburgh, concerning a

form of communication which Sir Edward Appleton helped with during the First World War

Edward Victor Appleton was born in Bradford on 6 September, 1892, the son of Peter and Mary Appleton. He received his early education at Hanson Grammar School, Bradford, and initially he showed little interest in anything apart from music and cricket. At the age of 18 he won a scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge University where he studied 1913-1914 Natural Science, with physics for Part II, under famous names including Sir J J Thomson and Lord Rutherford. Appleton was very successful, winning the Wiltshire Prize in 1913 and the Hutchinson Research Studentship in 1914. He ultimately gained a first class degree, During the First World War he joined the West Riding Regiment, transferring later to the Royal Engineers. Whilst in the army, he trained on the relatively new technology of radio or as it was called then "wireless". This obviously interested him considerably because after the cessation of hostilities he returned to Cambridge in 1920 and took up research on radio waves. He soon developed an interest in wireless or radio valves, as well as in the propagation of wireless or radio signals (further information can be found at:

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1947/appleton-bio.html, accessed 22/04/13).

The study of the theory and practice of radio wave propagation and reception, begun during the war, stimulated a life-long interest in the subject and brought Appleton renown as a scientist (further information can be found at: <http://biography.yourdictionary.com/sir-edward-victor-appleton>, accessed 22/04/13).

(WYB335/4) 23 July 1911–12 March 1917 Edith Dora Usher of Shipley, diaries, including references to the First World War

Edith Dora Usher was born in 1885 and lived in Shipley all her life. Her father had a haberdashery business in Shipley.

(4D85) 1915-1923 Magson family, correspondence relating to the First World War

(38D80) 1917-1923 J and F Hattersley records, including postcard and ephemera from military service during First World War

(47D75/6/2/169) January 1916 Letter from the Board of Trade, London, to W P Richardson concerning information as to workmen who have joined His Majesty's Forces during the present war

(WYB616) 1879-1955 JESSIE MILLAR WILSON MBE, MEMOIRS AND LETTERS

Includes memoirs of Jessie Millar Wilson's time working with YMCA in France 1915-1921, YMCA certificate of identification, memorandum of understanding between YMCA and lady workers serving with the YMCA attached to the British Expeditionary Force, booklet regarding YMCA Hotel Windsor, Paris, letter from 2nd Lt Frank Fairbank of West Riding Regiment, Prisoner of War at Graudenz camp, to Jessie Millar Wilson, 27 Jun 1918, letters from Jessie Millar Wilson in France to her family in England, and notes on memories for talks and memoirs.

Front Line/Military Service

(52D76) (1914-1918) British Army in France, extract from routine orders issued to soldiers relating to the prevention of chilled feet

(DB63/C11/10/4) (1914) Notebook of C J H Cutcliffe Hyne who died in 1916 at the Battle of the Somme

Containing notes on 'OTC selected volunteers (Hawksworth's new 'army')', and also notes about ammunition, artillery, cavalry, infantry, duties, supplies, outposts, platoon training at Bilton Grange, and how to dig a trench (with illustrations). Also contains poems. Son of C J Cutcliffe Hyne.

War Hospitals

(WYB239) 1916-1919 Autograph and photograph albums containing messages, poems and drawings from soldiers, collected by Nurse Katherine Purves

Fender

Born on 23 January 1890 at Wallsend, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Katherine Fender worked as an unqualified nurse at Bradford War Hospital (St Luke's Hospital) during the First World War. She began general nurse training on 24 February 1921 at Miller General Hospital, London, and completed this training on 24 February 1924. She was admitted to the GNC general register on 20 June 1924. After this she is believed to have worked mainly in private nursing in the Bournemouth area and did not pursue a hospital career. She retired in the late 1960s and moved to Portsmouth where she lived with her widowed sister until her death on 24 February 1970. Information supplied by Katherine Fender's nephew, Mr J Fender.

(MM56) 1915-1918 Bradford War Hospital Supply Depot, records

Including visitors' book, article relating to work of depot, subscription list. The Bradford War Hospital Supply Depot was in Leeds Road, Bradford. St Luke's Hospital was administered by the Bradford Board of Guardians and was the workhouse infirmary. It became the Bradford War Hospital and treated soldiers straight from France. The first Red Cross Train arrived on 9 December 1915 bringing wounded soldiers straight from France to the Hospital. The Bradford Daily Telegraph on 9 April 1918 reported that "in less than a week 700 cases nearly all surgical were admitted to the hospital and other convoys were expected as soon as the cases can be cured and passed on to some other place". This was the time of the German spring offenses with heavy losses on both sides. It was also

to be a time when influenza was attacking nursing staff and soldiers of the War Hospital with extraordinary virulence, putting even more strain on the remaining nursing staff. Following the end of the war it took several months to finish treating the remaining wounded soldiers and the Hospital was finally vacated of all military cases on 26 July 1919. It was a further three months, following cleaning and refurbishment of the Hospital and Union House, that the first inmates were returned. On 31 March 1920 the Ministry of Health approved the transfer of St Luke's Hospital to the Bradford Corporation. Bradford was "the first city to provide general hospital treatment from public funds, without the stigma of Poor Law" (The Texture of Welfare, 1923) (further information can be found at: <http://www.bradfordww1.co.uk/content/bradford-war-hospital-st-luke%E2%80%99s-hospital>, accessed 22/04/13).

(WYB462) [c1914] Postcard of ward at Bradford War Hospital

Showing patients seated, standing and in bed, nurses and decoration of ward with flags of various allied nations in C Ward.

War Graves

(82D91) 1914-1970s List of Commonwealth War Graves at Undercliffe Cemetery

War graves 1914-1918. Military hospitals were opened in Bradford in both the First and Second World Wars and many of the 91 First World War burials here were from the 1,200 bed Bradford War Hospital. The cemetery also contains 43 Second World War burials. The graves are scattered throughout the cemetery but it was not possible to mark a small number of them individually. A low memorial kerb behind the Cross of Sacrifice bears the names of the casualties buried in these graves (further information can be found at: [http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/46319/Bradford%20\(Undercliffe\)%20Cemetery](http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/46319/Bradford%20(Undercliffe)%20Cemetery), accessed 22/04/13).

Demobilisation

(45D00) 1917-1920 Ralph Wilkinson of Buttershaw, papers and photographs from First World War Army service and demobilisation

Born in 1899, Ralph Wilkinson volunteered for the army and joined the Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1918. Before enlisting he was a mill labourer. He joined as a Private in the Royal Army Service Convoy Regiment, 911 Medical Transport Company attached to the 39th Medical Ambulance Convoy. He was a peerless lorry driver from June 1917 to December 1919 in the Mesopotamian command. The 50 ambulances of the 39th Motor Ambulance Convoy were provided by the United Provinces Special War Fund through the British Red Cross and Order of St John. They cared for the sick and wounded of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force operating on the Euphrates and Tigris front areas of operations and on the Persian lines of communication. They also evacuated wounded and sick Indian and Russian troops as well as helping the Kurds.

(WYB430/5/1) War Pensions Sub-Committee book

Containing names (indexed) and particulars of the men of Steeton-with-Eastburn who served in the First World War. Details include names, home address, rank and battalion, where serving, age, marital status, date of entry into the armed forces, civil occupation, name and address of employer, names of dependants and other notes.

Regimental Histories

(6D95) 1914-1946 The Bradford Volunteer Artillery, published history and transcripts of documents

Including transcripts of documents regarding Bradford Volunteer Artillery compiled by Major R T P Peacock 1914-1938 with copies of First World War diaries; also histories of 122nd (West Riding) Field Regiment and 70th (West Riding) Field Regiment during the Second World War.

In 1908 there was the 1st West Riding Brigade Royal Field Artillery (T F) with its headquarters at Fenton Street, Leeds, and the 2nd West Riding Brigade Royal Field Artillery (T F) with its headquarters at Valley Parade in Bradford. In the First World War, both brigades were part of the 49th (West Riding) Division, going to France in 1915. Each formed a second line brigade which then supported 62nd Division. In February 1920 the two brigades were reformed at Leeds and Bradford and the following year were re-designated 69th and 70th (West Riding) Brigades Royal Field Artillery (T A) (further information can be found at: <http://www.yorkshirevolunteers.org.uk/wrarty.htm>, accessed 22/04/13).

Home Front

(47D75/6/4/128) [c1916] Circular from the Yorkshire Education Department of the West Riding County Council

Concerning schools and food production, and short courses in war-time gardening for teachers.

(7D90) 1914-1945 Annie Irene Crawford, printed ephemera relating to the First and Second World Wars, including pictorial souvenir of the mobilisation of the Bradford Territorials 1914 and notice about air raid warnings 1915

(BBD1/1/125/195) April 1920 Post War Circular No 5 – instructions and regulations for the Soldiers and Sailors Families Association

(52D80/2) 1918 Photographs and drawings relating to the First World War, including a series of photographs of employees taken inside Lumb Lane Mill, with bunting and decorations, to celebrate the end of the First World War

Drummonds Mill, constructed by James Drummond, was built on a ten-acre site on Lumb Lane in 1856. At its peak, the mill was one of the pioneers of the worsted coating trade in Bradford. When the mill closed in December 2002 only 104 people were working there (further information can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/bradford/hi/people_and_places/history/newsid_9399000/9399344.stm, accessed 22/04/13).

The photographs were taken by T A Evans of Bradford. In around 1897 he moved to Bradford where he joined with a photographer named [Thompson] and later set up on his own. The firm was still active until well into the 1960s and was closed by his grandson (further information can be found at: http://www.edinphoto.org.uk/pp_i/pp_imperial_arts_guild.htm, accessed 22/04/13).

(8D91) 1980s Ron Blackwell, historical notes relating to the Low Moor explosion (arms manufacturer during the First World War)

On Monday 21 August 1916 there was a large explosion at the Low Moor Munitions Factory. The Low Moor Chemical Company produced picric acid which was used as a dye to colour carpets. The people who worked there were called canaries because their skin, hair, eyes and teeth all went yellow. In contained spaces it was explosive so when the First World War started picric acid was used as an explosive. It was renamed the Low Moor Munitions Company, given the designation 'Factory No 182, Yorkshire' by the Ministry of Munitions, and was expanded to meet demand. The Company seems to have been free from serious accidents until August 1916, although a series of small fires had occurred in the magazines during the six months before the explosion. These danger signals were evidently ignored and on 21 August, explosions occurred at frequent intervals, each scattering blazing debris in all directions, and gradually the whole works were destroyed. At the adjoining North Bierley Works in Cleckheaton Road, a large gasometer containing 270,000 cubic feet of gas was ruptured by falling debris. The escaping gas quickly ignited and the heat could be felt almost a mile away. In the nearby railway sidings almost 30 carriages and wagons were destroyed and 100 seriously damaged. Damage to surrounding areas was extensive, with broken windows in all houses and shops for 2 miles around. For several days, people could not live in their houses and were forced to camp out in neighbouring fields or live with relatives. Some properties were completely demolished by the blast and 29 houses in First Street were erected in 1919 to replace these. One thing which one eye witness recalls was the number of dogs running away in all directions, later to be found as far away as Wakefield, Huddersfield and Halifax. The official casualty figures given were - 34 people killed and 60 injured. These figures applied only to the works, but outside the works, many more were injured by flying glass and debris (further information can be found at: <http://www.firewestyorkshire.com/lowmoorexpllosion.htm>, accessed 22/04/13, <http://www.bradfordhistorical.org.uk/antiquary/third/vol03/lowmoor.html>, accessed 22/04/13 and

<http://www.bradfordww1.co.uk/content/low-moor-explosion>, accessed 22/04/13).

(52D81/12) 1914-1918 Bradford Volunteers circulars

(94D85/13/25) 1 October 1916 Agreement concerning the use of land near Old Weston as a H D Flight Station, with plan

Agreement between James Moss Howson of Old Weston, Huntingdon and His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department. 75 SQUADRON RFC/RAF. Bases: Formed at Tadcaster 1 October 1916 with nucleus from 33 Squadron. HQ to Goldington 12 October 1916 with flights detached to Yelling (A Flt), Old Weston (B Flt) and Therfield (C Flt). HQ to Elmswell 9 September 1917 with flights at Harling Road (A Flt), Elmswell (B Flt) and Hadleigh (C Flt) (further information can be found at: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=73172>, accessed 22/04/13).

The Royal Flying Corps selected a site for an airfield near the village of Old Weston, Cambridgeshire, during the First World War. The first flying unit to arrive at the base was 75 Squadron. It remained at this airfield until September 1917. After the War, the airfield was abandoned. Some of the buildings were taken over by the surrounding farms with many of them still in use today (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Molesworth, accessed 22/04/13).

(47D75/6/3/174) 8 February 1916 Circular from the Board of Trade, London, concerning timber fellers, hauliers and sawyers previously in the employ of the Farnley Hall estate who have either been enlisted or called up

(47D75/6/3/177) November 1916 Circulars from the Law Accident Insurance Limited, Bristol, concerning the employment of disabled soldiers and sailors

(DB17/C43) 1916-1919 Bradford Volunteers (Prince of Wales' Own) West Yorkshire Regiment, papers

Battalion orders, letter, pamphlets and booklets on National Service, Army Council instruction and Army Pensions. Also includes duties of officers and circulars.

The First World War saw numerous battalions of The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) serving at Neuve-Chappelle, Loos, the Somme, Passchendaele, Ypres, Marne, Arras, Cambrai and Gallipoli. At its peak, the West Yorkshire Regiment numbered 37 battalions, 66 Battle Honours were bestowed and four Victoria Crosses were awarded. The four TF battalions formed the West Yorkshire Brigade, which mobilised as 146 Brigade, 49th (West Riding) Infantry Division on the outbreak of the war and served in France 1915–1918. They raised duplicate battalions (2/5th, 2/6th,

2/7th, 2/8th) that constituted 185 Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division, which also served in France 1917–1918. In 1915, they formed further reserve battalions (3/5th, 3/6th, 3/7th, 3/8th) which served in the British Isles (further information can be found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Yorkshire_Regiment, accessed 22/04/13).

(DB60/C2/8) [c1914-1918] First World War recruiting circular

Reads like a letter from the front, entitled 'Do Your Bit'. Published by the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee.

Anti-War/Conscientious Objectors

(109D77) c1914-1936 War atrocities material, including photographs and anti-war pamphlet

Including photographs of First World War and Italian troops in Ethiopia and International Federation of Trade Unions anti war pamphlet.

(WYB8/2/2) c1917-1918 Bundle of photographs and postcards of conscientious objectors during the First World War

Includes photograph of Norman Sanctuary with Philip Snowden [?]; group photograph of Bradford and district NCFs (No-Conscription Fellowship) at Dartmoor Convict Prison; group photograph of Independent Labour Party, Dartmoor Prison branch, 1 September 1917; Philip Snowden [?] addressing a crowd [nd]; cartoon postcards entitled 'C.O.s at Dartmoor' and 'The C.O. in Prison'; two signed photographs of Tom Mann, addressed to 'Archie and Mrs Nutter', March and May 1918, one sent 'to recall a pleasant few hours in Bingley when we advocated a 6 hour day and 5 day week but two very nice girls did not vote for it'.

Conscientious objectors were people who simply did not want to fight in the First World War. They became known as 'conscies' or C.O's and they were a sign that not everybody was as enthusiastic about the War as the government would have liked. Battles such as Ypres and the Somme had cost Britain a vast number of casualties. By 1916, volunteers to join the British Army were starting to dry up. In response to this, the government introduced conscription in 1916 - where the law stated that you had to serve your country in the military for a certain period of time. A 'conscience clause' was added whereby those who had a "conscientious objection to bearing arms" were freed from military service.

There were several types of conscientious objector.

- 1 Some were pacifists who were against war in general
- 2 Some were political objectors who did not consider the government of Germany to be their enemy

- 3 Some were religious objectors who believed that war and fighting was against their religion. Groups in this section included the Quakers and Jehovah Witnesses
- 4 A combination of any of the above groups

Some conscientious objectors did not want to fight but were keen to 'do their bit'. These people were willing to help in weapons factories and some went to the trenches to become stretcher bearers, etc, although not to fight. Other C.O's refused to do anything that involved the war - these were known as 'absolutists'. In 1916 the Military Service Act was introduced - this was soon nicknamed the "Batchelor's Bill" as to start with conscription it only included unmarried men between 18 and 41. In May 1916 it was widened to include married men and by April 1918, to include men up to 51. The Act, however, also included a 'conscience clause' which allowed people the right to refuse to join up if it went against their beliefs. Those who claimed to be conscientious objectors had to face a tribunal to argue their case. Even this clause was not enough for some who wanted the Act withdrawn in full.

The No-Conscription Fellowship was an organisation made up by members of the Socialist Independent Labour Party and the Quakers. All were charged under the Defence of the Realm Act. They were all fined, and those who decided not to pay were sent to prison (further information can be found at: http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/conscientious_objectors.htm, accessed 22/04/13).

(DB65/C1/2/1-68) 1907–1963 Appointment diaries and notebooks of William Hewitt of Queensbury and the Isle of Man

Contains information on motorbikes and cars, notes about his business as a drysalter and chemist, notes concerning the Sunday School and Chapel he attended, business, personal, property and household accounts, various medicinal recipes for illnesses, and reasons why he was a conscientious objector in the war (DB65/C1/2/12, January 1916).

(WYB8/2/33) 1916–1918 Archibald Nutter of Myrtle Avenue, Bingley, conscientious objector

Papers include certificate of exemption from Military Service Acts, 1916, conditional upon remaining in the certified occupation of a reed manufacturer; three letters from Bingley UDC regarding his refusal to drill, and letter from the House of Commons regarding ?Harry Sexton, May 1916.

(WYB8/2/1) 1917-1918 Autograph book belonging to Norman Sanctuary signed by fellow conscientious objectors at Dartmoor Convict Prison

Autograph book belonging to Norman Sanctuary (born 1879), signed by fellow conscientious objectors (mainly Independent Labour Party and other socialists) at Dartmoor Convict Prison.

Documents held at WYAS, Calderdale

War Memorials/Rolls of Honour

(TW) 1913–1981 Todmorden War Memorial Fund Trustees' minutes of meetings, trust deeds, correspondence, financial records and grant application papers

Following the end of the First World War there was a large public subscription in Todmorden towards a commemorative fund to honour those who fought in the War. The memorial took the form of a garden of remembrance at Centre Vale, which was officially opened on 9 October 1921. Established in 1919, the fund had also been originated as a source of income for the assistance of needy cases of demobilized and discharged soldiers and sailors, the dependants of those still serving, the widows and dependants of those who died in the War and deserving civilian cases of distress.

(MISC:278) 1911–1918 Sunnyside Council School, Northowram, records including Roll of Honour of teachers and past scholars serving in the First World War, with details of regiments, deaths, etc

(RG:243) 1921 'In Memory of the Fallen, a record of the Old Boys of the School who sacrificed their lives in the Great War 1914-1918' by J Robinson, with photographs and dates of time spent at the School

Record Books/Diaries/Letters

(WYC:1707) 1917-1918 PRIVATE LEWIS CROWTHER OF HALIFAX, 21ST NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS, FIRST WORLD WAR POSTCARDS AND LETTERS

Field Service post cards and letters from Private Lewis Crowther serving in France to his parents, Mr and Mrs Isaac Crowther, Woodside View, West Vale, Halifax, 1917-1918

(WYC:1713) 1917-1919 PRIVATE IRVINE SMITH, HALIFAX, FIRST WORLD WAR LETTERS

Letters from Private Irvine Smith, on active service during the First World War, to his family, including his Mother, Father and Wilf in Halifax. Private Irvine Smith served with the 25th Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 6th Cyclist Battalion and 68th Welsh Divisional Cyclists.

(FW:47/58) 1913–1917 Geoffrey Otho Charles Edwards, West Riding Regiment, correspondence, certificate of death, epitome of will, etc

Geoffrey Otho Charles Edwards was born on 2 October 1876. He was the son of Arthur Hancock Edwards and Eleanor Louisa Pease and was killed in action on 7 July 1916 aged 39. He graduated from New College, Oxford University, Oxford, with a Bachelor of Arts. He gained the rank of Lieutenant in the service of the 3rd Battalion, Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment (further information can be found at: <http://www.thepeerage.com/p39637.htm>, accessed 23/04/13).

(MISC:643) 1865–1939 Mitchell family of Halifax and Skircoat, records including letters concerning the death in action of William Henry Mitchell (junior) on 18 May 1917 in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

(RMP:1145/9) 21 August 1914 Letter from Buckingham Palace to John Taylor Ramsden, being an acknowledgment of the thanks of Princess Mary for a donation of £100 to H R H Sailors and Soldiers' Christmas Fund 1914

(RMP:1145/14) 31 August 1916 Letter to Thomas Ramsden from J S C Wells, from the "front", asking him why he does not write to him and giving him family news

(RMP:1145/16) 26 July 1917 Letter from J S C Wells to Thomas Ramsden, from the "front", telling him of the shortage of water out there, giving family news and adding that the announcement of his DSO was made on his birthday

(WYC:1147/18) 30 December 1919 Letter from Marguerite Melot of Louvain, Belgium, to Mr and Mrs Horsfall, with news since she lived at Ogden and was befriended by them as a Belgian refugee

(WYC:1147/172) 1915–1916 Letters home from France from Eric Shaw, principally to his brother Joe in Preston, sister-in-law Ada (nee Feber, daughter of Grace Horsfall) and niece Florence Shaw. Also note by Private Fred Lucas in trenches on death of Eric Shaw in action

(WYC:1388) c1914–1918 Reginald Horsfall of Halifax. Letters and postcards from Germany as a prisoner of war in Gustrow to Phyllis Kershaw of Halifax, with photograph

Gustrow was in Mecklenburg, an area of north-east Germany that included a number of camps,

including Gustrow, Stralsund and Parchim. Reginald Horsfall did return home after the War, but died shortly afterwards.

(WYC:1249/42-80) 1914–1918 Pocket diaries of Herman Van Dyk, pianist, conductor and composer of Holland and Halifax

Records cover rehearsals, performances, meetings, works composed and written, travel and holidays, and the War. Entry for 3 August 1914 - "A European war has suddenly broken out. Germany has declared war on France, and England will support France. There is a panic in the market and everything has gone up by leaps and bounds". Entry for 3 September 1914 - "I am writing to the Home Office for conditions of naturalisation, in case Holland should be dragged into this war, or else if Germany should conquer Holland, I should wish to become a British subject. I have lived in England nearly 27 years now". Appointed member of the War Refugees Committee. Refugees arrive October 1914. December 1914 - German cruisers bombarded Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby "did a great deal of damage and then escaped in a mist". April 1915 - writes to the Dutch Vice-Consul at Bradford asking if there is any truth in the rumour that Holland might join Germany and declare war against England. Reply that Holland is "overwhelmingly anti-German". Mentions that Harrogate Corporation will not sanction any foreign conductors or composers to appear this year unless they belong to the allied countries. Goes to the police to see if he needs to register himself as an alien. They say no and report that "there had been tons of enquiries and letters about other foreigners, but not a single one about me! I consider it a great compliment to be respected so much". Receives passport 1915. 5 February 1916 - have to register as aliens. 6 March 1916 - air raid alarm but "the Zepps did not come". Dutch ship torpedoed in the North Sea. End of his appointment as conductor of the Halifax Orchestral Society. 22 August 1916 - serious explosion at the munitions works at Low Moor - "There are wild rumours as to damage and loss of life". 26 September 1916 - "There was a Zeppelin alarm last night at 10.45...but they fortunately did not visit this town. Rumours have it that they were as near as Todmorden". 28 November 1916 – "2 Zepps brought down in flames and fallen into the sea near Durham and off Norfolk". 1917 America breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany and President Wilson advises other neutral nations to back him up. More Dutch boats sunk. Abdication of the Tsar of Russia - "and the revolution is spreading". America declares war on Germany. His silver wedding. Further air raid warnings. 22 December 1917 - explosion at Hipperholme "which shook the house and certainly awoke this town". 1918 Air raids. Seizure of Dutch ships by America and England in return for food. Bulgaria surrenders. Women MPs allowed. Armistice signed by Austria. Abdication of the Kaiser, who takes refuge in Holland. End of the war.

Herman Francois Van Dyk was born in Leeuwarden, Holland, and received his first pianoforte instruction from a local teacher, until at the age of 17 he left home to study the piano, violin and harmony and counterpoint at the School of Music, Amsterdam. The following year he went to the Conservatorium at Leipzig where he studied for 3 years. In December 1887, he came to London at the invitation of relatives and stayed there 3 years. At Utrecht (Holland) in November 1890 he conducted the first performance of his "Faust-Symphony". In 1890, he left London and his large

teaching connection, and came to Yorkshire on account of his health. According to his diary 8 September 1914 he received the conditions of naturalisation, which would cost him £3 for the certificate plus 2/6 when the certificate had been granted. His notebooks give an insight into the classical music being played up to and after the start of the First World War. By this time, he felt that many people in the audience as well as members of the orchestra thought that his name sounded German and this put them off going to rehearsals and attending concerts. He died aged 74 at Halifax General Hospital on 28 August 1940. He left a wife but no children (further information can be found at:

<http://www.halifaxgreatwar.org/HGWTADiscussionBoard/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=150&sid=1efd437176c301df0b141057c8224144>, accessed 23/04/13).

(RMP:1145/8) 9 August 1914 Letter from H Birkbeck to John Taylor Ramsden thanking him for his offer of help at the beginning of the war

(WYC:1640) Repatriated Prisoners of War of Halifax and District Message of Thanks

Message of thanks from the Repatriated Prisoners of War of Halifax and District to Mr W E Denison, his staff and helpers, for work organising the 'Courier Fund' and the despatch of food and clothing to prisoners of war. Includes signatures and regiments of prisoners of war during the First World War. With a covering letter from the Earl of Sandwich as Chairman of the Central Prisoners of War Committee, 20 February 1919. The text reads; 'We the repatriated Prisoners of War of Halifax and District whose signatures appear overleaf, desire to offer our deepest gratitude to Mr W E Denison, his staff and the undermentioned helpers for the great work, voluntarily undertaken, of organising the 'Courier Fund' and carrying out the despatch of parcels of food and clothing to us whilst interned in enemy countries. By this means the assistance from home which was absolutely necessary to prevent starvation, owing to the scanty nourishment provided by the enemy authorities, was assured.'

Front Line/Military Service

(PI:28-51,70/1) c1910 – 1987 Gertrude Bell – served with the British Intelligence during the First World War and joined the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force in Basra and Baghdad

Gertrude Lowthian Bell was born in Washington, County Durham, in 1868. Her father, Sir Thomas Hugh Bell, was the son of Sir Isaac Lowthian Bell, the industrial metallurgist, whilst her mother was Mary Shield, the daughter of John Shield of Newcastle upon Tyne. Her mother died in 1871 and Hugh Bell subsequently married Florence Olliffe, the daughter of Sir Joseph Olliffe. Gertrude Bell was educated at Queen's College, London and at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she obtained a first class degree in modern history in 1888. In the years following, she spent time on the social round in

London and Yorkshire, travelled extensively in Europe, and visited Persia. Her travels continued with two round the world trips in 1897-1898 and in 1902-1903. In the seasons 1899-1904, her climbing exploits in the Alps earned her renown as a mountaineer. From the turn of the century, her life was governed by a love of the Arab peoples, inspired, it seems, by a visit to friends in Jerusalem in 1899-1900. She learned their language, investigated their archaeological sites, and travelled deep into the desert, accompanied only by male guides. She learned to speak Persian and Arabic and wrote about her archaeological findings and her travels. Bell's knowledge of the region led her into service with the British Intelligence during the First World War where she worked under Sir Percy Cox and Sir Arnold Wilson. In 1915 she was appointed to the Arab Bureau in Cairo, which was involved in gathering information useful for mobilising the Arabs against Turkey. She also joined the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force in Basra and Baghdad. In 1920, she became Oriental Secretary to the British High Commission in Iraq and was influential in establishing the Hashimite Dynasty when Faisal I became the first king of Iraq in 1921. Her first love, however, was always for archaeology, and between 1923 and 1926, as Honorary Director of Antiquities in Iraq, she established the Iraq Museum in Baghdad. Gertrude Bell died on 12 July 1926 in Baghdad, where she was buried. Her most important works include *Safar Nameh: Persian pictures* (1894); *Poems from the Divan of Hafiz* (1897); *The desert and the sown* (1907); *The thousand and one churches* by William M. Ramsay and Gertrude Bell (1909); *Amurath to Amurath* (1911); *Churches and monasteries of the Tûr 'Abdîn and neighbouring districts* (1913); *Palace and mosque at Ukhaidir : a study in early Mohammadan architecture* (1914); *The Arab of Mesopotamia* (1917); *Review of the civil administration of Mesopotamia* (1920).

(WT:80) 1915 Plans of scheme for destroying Zeppelins by Mr Holroyd Smith

(WYC:1534/2/2) c1914–1918 First World War propaganda flyers dropped by balloon by the German Government over the trenches and collected by Lewis Pickles during his military services

Airborne leaflet propaganda is a form of psychological warfare in which flyers are scattered in the air. Military forces have used aircraft to drop leaflets to attempt to change the behavior of combatants and civilians in enemy-controlled territory, sometimes in conjunction with air strikes. Humanitarian air missions, in cooperation with leaflet propaganda, can turn civilians against their leadership while preparing them for the arrival of enemy troops (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Airborne_leaflet_propaganda, accessed 23/04/13).

Home Front

(DC:1305) 1918–1919 Articles of agreement between John Crossley and Sons, carpet manufacturers of Halifax, and the War Department, relating to temporary occupation of part of New Bank Mills (Bottom Mill), with

correspondence

(WT:81–84) 1915-1920 Registration card and permit book of Mrs Bertha Florence Whitley-Thomson, London 1915-1917, and award of medal of King Albert of Belgium 10 January 1920

The King Albert Medal (Dutch: *Koning Albert Medaille*, French: *Médaille du Roi Albert*) was a Belgian medal established by royal decree on 7 April 1919 and awarded to both Belgians and foreigners who were exceptionally meritorious in promoting, organising or administering humanitarian and charitable work which assisted Belgians in need during the First World War (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Albert_Medal, accessed 23/04/13).

(WYC:1147/159) 14 June 1919 Invitation to Jack Butler to attend a reception at Thrum Hall, Halifax, from Alderman Howard Clay, JP and Mayor of Halifax, in gratitude for his service during the Great War

Thrum Hall was a rugby league stadium on Hanson Lane, Halifax, home of Halifax RLFC (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thrum_Hall, accessed 23/04/13).

(WYC:1285/1/4) [1914-1918] Photographs of a wartime "Sing" at Thrum Hall conducted by Harry Shepley

(WT:26) [c1918] Printed invitation from Sir Frederick Whitley Whitley-Thomson to view the procession in celebration of peace from 65 Sloane St, London. With photograph of the house

Frederick Whitley Thomson was born in Glasgow on 2 September 1851, the son of Jonathan Thomson of Glasgow, merchant and Emma Whitley (born 26 January 1825, married Square Chapel 11 October 1850), granddaughter of John Whiteley, founder of the firm of John Whiteley and Sons, and daughter of John and Susanna Whitley (nee Whiteley). They had two other sons (Reginald, Arthur who both died young) and three daughters, Louisa, Emma and Augusta, who were all given the name Whitley as a second Christian name. Frederick was educated at the Glasgow Academy and the Andersonian University College, Glasgow. He first came to Halifax in 1869 to learn cotton spinning with his uncle, Samuel Whitley, who occupied Hanson Lane Mills. After a brief return to Glasgow, he came back to Halifax in 1879 to join the business of his other uncles, John and Nathan Whitley at John Whiteley and Sons of Brunswick Mills, as a traveller. He eventually became Head of the Firm, and with his cousin Alfred William Whitley he made it a private limited company and then led it into merger with the English Card Clothing Company Limited in 1897, where he remained a Director. He was Mayor of Halifax from 1908-1911, and he was also Vice-President of the Halifax Mechanics Institute and Chairman of the Halifax Technical School. He was Liberal MP for the Skipton Division from 1900-1906, when he resigned because of health problems. In 1908 and 1911 he contested

South Herefordshire and Colchester but was unsuccessful in his attempts to re-enter the House of Commons. He travelled extensively and was a strong advocate of the teaching of foreign languages as an aid to commerce. In 1908 he became the chief magistrate of the Borough of Halifax, remaining in office for 3 years. He was not a member of the Council when he was invited to become Mayor in 1908, but a seat was found for him in Skircoat Ward. After retiring from the mayoralty in 1911, he continued his membership of the Council and in 1913 succeeded Sir George Fisher-Smith as Chairman of the Finance Committee until 1919. He lived at Savile Heath and was a member and deacon of Park Congregational Church. He later principally lived in London, first at 65 Sloane Street and later from 1919 at 19 Addison Rd, Kensington. On 10 August 1914 he was granted the right to take the name Whitley in addition to and before that of Thomson and to bear the arms of Whitley quarterly with those of Thomson. Arms for his paternal name of Thomson were granted on 9 June 1915 and the same patent gave him an impalement for Smith. By another patent dated the following day, he was granted arms representing his Whitley descent. In 1916 he was created a Knight Bachelor. He died at St Leonard's-on-Sea on 21 June 1925, aged 74. He was buried in the Thomson family vault in Glasgow. He left a large estate. He married on 29 August 1888 at Sion Chapel, Halifax, Bertha Florence Smith, daughter of Matthew Smith, Mayor of Halifax. She outlived her husband, dying at Harrogate on 18 May 1943, aged 81. They had one daughter, Doris, born 1 April 1862, who became the wife of Lieutenant Commander Joseph Montague Kenworthy, MP on 4 December 1913. He became the 10th Baron de Strabolgi in 1933. There is a distinct link with textiles that accounts for the considerable wire manufacture in the Halifax area. The carding of fibres either by hand or the carding engine requires wire to be set in the cards; wire is also used to separate warp threads in looms. Wire manufacturers frequently went on to become card manufacturers also and sometimes tanners too. John Whiteley and Son was one of the earliest manufacturers of wire for cards, established in 1791 by John Whiteley, born 1758, when cards were made entirely by hand. They had premises in Winding Rd by 1822. In the 1840s they moved to Brunswick Mills, West Parade, worsted mills established by Thomas Smith Scarborough and his brothers. In 1863 they were visited by the Prince of Wales. By the 1890s they employed 300 work people and they went on to have customers worldwide. In 1897 they merged with the English Card Clothing Company Limited.

(CMT4/EUD:56) 1919 - Elland Peace Celebrations, miscellaneous papers

(WYC:1123/7) 28 June 1919 United Sunday Schools Peace Commemoration programme for event in Thrum Hall Grounds, Halifax. With note - the Second effort to re-establish the Halifax "Jubilees"

A celebration of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the First World War. Thousands of people, including teachers and scholars from over 120 local Sunday Schools, gathered for the event (further information can be found at:

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~calderdalecompanion/u.html>, accessed 23/04/13).

(CMT8/15/823) 1918–1919 (i) War Bonds (ii) March 1918 Tank Week (iii)

November 1918 Guns Week

War bonds are debt securities issued by a government for the purpose of financing military operations during times of war. They generate capital for the government and make civilians feel involved in their national militaries. This system is also useful as a means of controlling inflation in such an overstimulated economy by removing money from circulation until hopefully after the war is concluded. At that point, the funds could be liquidated and serve as a stimulus to encourage consumer spending for the economy transitioning to peacetime activity. Exhortations to buy war bonds are often accompanied with appeals to patriotism and conscience. Government-issued war bonds tend to have a yield which is below market value and are often made available in a wide range of denominations to make them affordable to all citizens (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_bond, accessed 23/04/13).

Tank Week - The 3rd week of March 1918 was declared Tank Week in Halifax, a fund-raising event in the war effort. A tank – popularly known as Egbert – was displayed in Halifax and anyone who bought a war bond was told that they could consider themselves the part owner of a tank! A car and a bus of Halifax Tramways were painted battleship grey to celebrate the event and were named the Duke of Wellington and Havercake Lads. A number of presentation tanks were given to towns and cities in recognition of their contribution to the purchase of war bonds and the war effort. One of these – Tank Number 208 – was installed at Rock Hollow Park, Ogden (further information can be found at: <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~calderdalecompanion/t.html#t295>, accessed 23/04/13).

Gun Week – On 4 November 1918 Gun Week started in Halifax and raised more than £1,600,000. Guns brought to Halifax for the occasion were positioned at Barum Top. On 2 December 1918 Gun Week started in Brighouse and raised £43,000 (further information can be found at: <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~calderdalecompanion/g.html#g1169>, accessed 23/04/13).

(FLD:390) 1916 Request for transmission of dividend warrants by post to the Bank of England (War Loan Stock)

Forms part of the records of Fielden Brothers Limited, cotton manufacturers of Waterside Mills, Todmorden.

(DC:62) and (DC:63) December 1917–March 1919 Directors' copy-out letters relating to staff pay, piece rates, men in army, etc

Forms part of the records of John Crossley and Sons Limited, carpet manufacturers of Dean Clough Mills, Halifax.

(MISC:639/4) Undated certificate presented to M Whelan by the Halifax Branch of United Irish League of Great Britain Home Rule Club as a token of appreciation of the service given to the Cause of Freedom and Humanity during the Great War 1914-1919

The United Irish League (UIL) was a nationalist political party in Ireland, launched 23 January 1898 with the motto "*The Land for the People*". The United Irish League remained politically active as Devlin's support organisation for the Parliamentary party, becoming largely infiltrated by members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, up until the rise of Sinn Féin after the outbreak of World War I in 1914. From 1918, the UIL was restricted to Northern Ireland, and was defunct by the mid-1920s (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Irish_League, accessed 23/04/13).

(RMP:1109) 1915 Ramsden family of Ovensden and Norfolk, certificate issued by the Recruiting Office, Kings Lynn, pronouncing Thomas Ramsden of Middleton Tower medically unfit for service

(FLD:918) 1919–1942 King's National Roll records (employment of disabled ex-servicemen), including certificate of going on the Roll, circulars, list of employees, etc

The King's National Roll Scheme (KNRS) was an employment programme implemented for disabled ex-servicemen of the First World War. It was practical, innovative and ahead of its time (further information can be found at: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/routledg/cerh/2007/00000014/00000004/art00007>, accessed 23/04/13).

(GPO) c1866-c1963 Halifax and District Post Office records, including photographs of workers who died in the First World War

The earliest known reference relating to the Halifax Post Office is in an account book of 1770. In 1823 the Halifax Post Office was at 6 Westgate and it then seems to have moved to Winding Road. By 1837 the Post Office moved to 10 Cheapside and by 1853 it was at 6 George Street. A new General Post Office, designed by Henry Tanner, was opened in Commercial Street, Halifax on 23 June 1887 at a cost of £13,000. It was the first purpose-built accommodation in Halifax for the post office. The premises were enlarged in 1926-1927 to provide accommodation for the first local automatic telephone exchange.

**(DC:194) 1916-1926 Correspondence, accounts, receipts, etc relating to
'trading with the enemy' and enemy debts**

Forms part of the records of John Crossley and Sons Ltd, carpet manufacturers of Dean Clough Mills, Halifax.

Anti-War/Conscientious Objectors

**(MISC:445) 1916 No Conscription Fellowship, Halifax Branch, photocopy of
correspondence from William R Stoker, Secretary of the Halifax Branch,
concerning arrest of conscientious objectors**

The No Conscription Fellowship (NCF) was formed to support those who objected to taking up arms in the First World War. These men became known as "Conscientious Objectors". The grounds of objection varied with some, such as Quakers, objecting on religious grounds, whilst others were opposed on political grounds. The movement began in the autumn of 1914 when, at the suggestion of his wife Lilla, Fenner Brockway - editor of the strongly anti-war ILP newspaper Labour Leader - invited those who were not prepared to render military service to get in contact. There was an immediate response that led to the establishment of an organisation, the No Conscription Fellowship, in November 1914 with 300 initial members and most of the secretarial work being done by Lilla from their cottage in Derbyshire. The NCF established a network of branches across the country to fight against the threatened Military Service Bill. Members declared their intention not to render military service or perform war-work and pledged themselves to fight for their beliefs and for peace. The NCF was organised meticulously, keeping records of every CO, the grounds of his objection, his appearance before tribunals, civil courts, courts martial, and even which prison or Home Office settlement they were in. They also maintained contact with objectors, arranging visits to camps, barracks and prisons across the country and holding pickets of prisons. The NCF had a press department, which constantly sought to draw the attention of the public to what was happening to COs and the ill-treatment and brutality many suffered. They also published leaflets and pamphlets and from March 1916 a weekly newspaper called The Tribunal. The NCF worked with two other organisations; the Friends' Service Committee and Fellowship of Reconciliation. Their activities were co-ordinated through the Joint Advisory Council (JAC). Ranged against them they had the full might of the government, the police, the army, most churches and the press which whipped up public opinion against "conchies" as they were labelled. Immense personal pressures were put on them not just by the state, but also by communities, neighbours, friends, even families. They also had to withstand the pressure to conform when isolated in barracks, army camps and prisons. Some forty were shipped to France in May 1916 as the government and army attempted to break the movement. Some were actually sentenced to death after court-martial, although the sentences were commuted to 10 years imprisonment as the NCF received increased publicity for what was happening. Seventy three men died after being arrested, the first ten whilst still in prison. About forty suffered mental breakdowns. Altogether, about 16,000 men refused to fight. According to NCF figures 6312 men were arrested for resisting conscription and over 800 served more than two years in prison. Thousands of other COs

refused to bear arms but accepted service in ambulance units, the Friends Relief Committee or "work of national importance". Women were extensively involved in the NCF. Firstly as mothers, wives, girlfriends and friends of the men who often had to face hostility from family and neighbours. Secondly as workers in the organisation itself, especially as male members were imprisoned (further information can be found at: <http://www.wcml.org.uk/contents/protests-politics-and-campaigning-for-change/no-conscription-fellowship/>, accessed 23/04/13).

Documents held at WYAS, Kirklees

War Memorials/Rolls of Honour

(KC371) c1919 Ancient Order of Foresters, Clayton West, Scroll of Honour of brethren who fought in the First World War

(KC664) 1873-1974 Independent Order of Rechabites, Temperance Friendly Society records, including Roll of Honour for 1914-1920

The Independent Order of Rechabites [Salford Unity] is a Friendly Society whose members also take a pledge of abstinence from intoxicating liquors. It was founded in 1835 and tended to be closely associated with churches, particularly Non-Conformist churches. Its branches were known as tents. Hope of Skelmanthorpe tent [number 267] was instituted in 1874 and registered in 1886. It was in the Huddersfield and Halifax Rechabite District [number 70] at first, but by the 1960s had come to be in the Bradford District [number 20]. Tent meetings were held at first at Hellawell's shop in Queen Street. Later they were held in Skelmanthorpe Wesleyan Reform Church, and then they moved to the Primitive Methodist Church in Pilling Lane. Charity Tent, Emley [number 1183] was instituted in 1872 and registered in 1884, and was in the Bradford District [number 20] of the Rechabites. Tent meetings were held at the Primitive Methodist Church in Emley. Both tents also had juvenile sections in which children and teenagers could be enrolled.

(KC419) c1918-1920 Fartown and Birkby War Memorial Executive Committee, Roll of Honour and letter to Earl Haig 1920

The memorial is situated in the main Park in Birkby and Fartown and is surrounded by Norman Road, Halifax Old Road and Birkby Hall Road. The period commemorated is 1914–1918. Description – a soldier on a plinth designed by Messrs Hart, Son, Peard and Company Limited in Birmingham at a contract price of £1370. The unveiling of the monument took place on Saturday 2 April 1902 by General Sir Ian Hamilton. There is a copy of the original programme detailing the events at the unveiling ceremony in the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield (further information can be found at: http://www2.kirklees.gov.uk/community/warmemorial/memorial_details.aspx?mid=21, accessed 22/04/13).

Field Marshal Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig of Bemersyde (19 June 1861–29 January 1928) was a British senior officer during the First World War. He commanded the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) from 1915 to the end of the War. He was commander during the Battle of the Somme (the battle with one of the highest number of casualties in British military history), the Third Battle of Ypres, and the Hundred Days Offensive, which led to the Armistice in 1918. Although a popular commander during the immediate post-war years (his funeral being a day of national mourning), Haig has since the 1960s become an object of criticism for his leadership during the First World War. Some dub him "Butcher Haig" for the two million British casualties under his command, and regard him as

representing the very concept of class-based incompetent commanders, stating that he was unable to grasp modern tactics and technologies (further information can be found at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_Haig,_1st_Earl_Haig, accessed 22/04/13).

Record Books/Diaries/Letters

(WYK1708) 1914 – 1918 FOTHERGILL AND SMITH FAMILY PAPERS, DEWSBURY

Letters between Edith Fothergill, Hill Croft, Earlsheaton, and her cousin Captain Gilbert C Phillips, 23rd Battalion London Regiment, 1914-1918 (WYK1708/1/11). Letters to Edith Fothergill, Hillcroft, Earlsheaton, from Colonel Frank Brook, 2/4 Hampshire Regiment 1918-1919 (WYK1708/1/14).

(KX480) 1914-1917 LANCE CORPORAL WILFRED FAIRBURN HARDY OF MOLDGREEN, FIRST WORLD WAR PAPERS (PHOTOCOPIES)

Photocopies of First World War letters, postcards and photographs of Lance Corporal Wilfred Fairburn Hardy of Moldgreen.

(WYK1725) 1916 – 1919 BENJAMIN HARTLEY OF RAVENSTHORPE, DEWSBURY, WAR DIARIES 1917-1919

War diaries 1917-1919, photograph of Benjamin Hartley in uniform c.1917, papers of Benjamin Hartley 1918-1919, newspaper cuttings c.1916-1918, programme for a Grand Concert organised by Ravensthorpe and Northorpe Conservative Club 29 Sep 1917, and examples of paper money from France and Germany c.1918.

(WYK1764) 1918 FIRST WORLD WAR POSTCARD

First World War postcard from Charlie (Mr C H Parker?) to his wife May sending best wishes for Christmas and New Year, 26 Dec 1918. The card is embroidered with '1914-1918 somewhere in France' using the colours of the Allies national flags to celebrate the end of the War.

(KC312/1/2) 1918-1925 Harold Flavell, Brighouse, letters to Ivy Atkinson, 11 Thornhill Road, Edgerton, including some whilst serving in the army at Shoreham by Sea, Perham Downs, Salonica and Constantinople

(KC329) and (KC909) 1905–1918 Florence Lockwood, Linthwaite, war diaries and notes

Florence Murray was born in 1861 in Devonport and married Josiah Lockwood, a director of Charles Lockwood and Sons Ltd, woollen manufacturers of Linthwaite. She took an active part in the political

and social life of the Colne Valley and Huddersfield, and was a prominent worker for women's suffrage, being president of the Huddersfield Branch of the Women's Suffrage Societies. She was also president of the Colne Valley Women's Liberal Association and represented the Colne Valley at National Federation meetings. For several years she was a member of the Huddersfield Board of Guardians and president of the Linthwaite District Nursing Association. Mrs Lockwood was an artist and painted numerous pictures of scenes in the Colne Valley. She was a vice-president of Huddersfield Art Society and many of her pictures were exhibited at the Societies exhibition. She also embroidered a banner for the women's suffrage society bearing a Colne Valley scene and the motto 'vote for homes.' Autobiography of Florence Lockwood; begun at Linthwaite 1905 and with continuations to 1911 (typewritten, with annotations) NB This work forms the basis of parts of Florence Lockwood's book 'An Ordinary Life 1861-1924' published in London 1932.

(DD/FLM) 1885–1918 Dr F L Mackenzie, North House Lockwood, letters from his sons serving in France and in Mesopotamia 1917-1918

Dr Frederick Lumsden Mackenzie was educated at the Madras College, St Andrew's, and graduated at Edinburgh University, taking the MB and CM degrees in 1885, and the MD in 1898. His obituary said that he was a man of gracious personality, always courteous, and full of kindly feeling. He was a keen golfer, and when captain of the Fixby Golf Club, Huddersfield, in 1893, was largely the means of founding the Yorkshire Union of Golf Clubs, of which he was the first president. He was buried at Woodfield Cemetery leaving a widow and two sons – the elder, Captain Melville Douglas Mackenzie, RAMC, who served at Bazra, the younger, Captain Kenneth Mackenzie, MC, who served in France (further information can be found at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2342372/?page=1>, accessed 22/04/13).

(KC65) 1919 Belgian Refugees Committee, Netherton, letters from families from Malines, Belgium to the Committee expressing their gratitude to the people of Netherton for their hospitality during the War and describing the conditions which they have found on their return to Belgium

(KC279) 1901–1937 Percy Dixon, from Marsh, 5th Battalion, West Riding Regiment,

Includes letter from Percy Dixon, 5th Battalion, West Riding Regiment, Doncaster, 1914 to his brother E Dixon, Huddersfield, briefly referring to his training with YMCA with HM Forces on Active Service 3 December 1914; his brother E Dixon, referring to his training with the YMCA with H. M. Forces in 1914. 1/5th Battalion August 1914: in Halifax. Part of 2nd West Riding Brigade, West Riding Division. Moved on mobilisation to coastal defences near Hull and Grimsby. Moved on 5 November 1914 to Doncaster. 14 April 1915: landed at Boulogne. 15 May 1915: formation became 147th Brigade in 49th (West Riding) Division. 30 January 1918: transferred to 186th Brigade in 62nd (2nd West Riding)

Division. The Bn also absorbed the 2/5th and was renamed the 5th Bn (further information can be found at: <http://www.1914-1918.net/dukes.htm>, accessed 23/04/13).

(KX324) 1914-1915 Letters home to Huddersfield from Roland Hely Owen, whilst serving in the 2nd Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) (photocopies)

Lieutenant R H Owen served as a platoon commander in France and Belgium from August to November 1914, and from February to April 1915. He was killed in action on 18 April 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres. Original letters are at the Imperial War Museum. He exchanged a number of letters with his brother John who served in the Royal Navy for the duration of the war (further information can be found at:

http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=oloqLJ3AAAEC&pg=PT122&lpg=PT122&dq=ROLAND+H+OWEN,+2ND+BATTALION,+DUKE+OF+WELLINGTON'S+REGIMENT&source=bl&ots=X4eOQz5qaL&sig=cFZmNBFCUo_S70NM-mgN-RuRrb8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=i0B2UfyxGIHfOt_AgbgM&ved=0CDgQ6AEwAQ, accessed 23/04/13).

(KX327) 1915-1919 Victor Hardy, private, Rifle Brigade, records including letters home to his family in Moldgreen 1915-1917 and diary 1915 about his first weeks in the army (photocopies)

Victor Hardy was a weaver from Moldgreen. He enlisted in November 1915, served in France and in Ireland, and was wounded and gassed in France in August 1918. He died in hospital in April 1919.

(KX364) 1915 Freddie Arthur Smith, Huddersfield, private in Duke of Wellington's Regiment, photocopies of First World War letters home from Belgium

Freddie Arthur Smith enlisted on 2 December 1914 in Huddersfield. He was sent to France in 1915 and was killed in action near Ypres in Belgium on 16 October 1915.

(KC943) 1914–1940s Colonel Keith Sykes, Honley, records comprising photographs of 2/5th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment 1916; album of photographs, letters, cuttings, and maps

Keith Sykes was born in 1888 and lived at the Mount, Honley. He had an association of some 50 years with the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. He was commissioned as an officer in the Holmfirth Company of the 5th Battalion of the Regiment before the outbreak of the First World War and was mobilized with the company on 4 August 1914. He served in France and Flanders with the Battalion continuously from 1915-1918. In 1916 he was promoted to captain. He was awarded the Military Cross in January 1916 and the French Croix de Guerre avec Palme in 1919. From 1918 to

1919 he was with the Battalion in Germany.

After the War he became commander of the Holmfirth Company of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and he became 2nd in command of the 5th Battalion in 1928. In 1932 he took over command of the unit and in 1936 he was appointed Colonel. During the Second World War he was first commandant of the Holmfirth Area Home Guard. Keith Sykes was also a director of the firms of Huddersfield Fine Worsteds Limited and Joseph Sykes and Company Limited, Brockholes. At one time he was deputy chairman of Huddersfield Fine Worsteds. He was also a Justice of the Peace, being chairman of the Holmfirth Bench. He was associated with many other local organisations. He died 5 December 1965 aged 77 years.

(KC312/16/4) 3 March 1916 Robert Tolson, Huddersfield, postcard sent while serving in Egypt to G T Porritt of Brockholes

The Tolson Museum in Huddersfield is housed in the former Ravensknowle Hall, built in 1860 by John Beaumont. It was given to the town by Legh Tolson in 1919 in memory of his two nephews killed in the First World War – brothers, 2nd Lieutenant Robert Huntriss Tolson, killed on 1 July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme, and 2nd Lieutenant James Martin Tolson who died in the closing stages of the war on 2 October 1918. The museum was formally opened on 27 May 1922. Originally a natural history museum with an extensive collection of rocks and fossils, the Tolson Museum was revamped from the 1980s to feature the industrial history of the Huddersfield area, including the manufacturing of textiles and road vehicles (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tolson_Museum, accessed 23/04/13).

Robert Huntriss Tolson, named after his Grandfather, a waistcoat manufacturer, was one of 6 sons and daughters of Mr Whiteley and Mrs Jessy Tolson (nee Huntriss - died in 1904) of Oaklands, Dalton. He was educated at Aysgarth and King William's School, Isle of Man. When war broke out he was living with his wife Zoe at 78 Holly Bank, Leeds, and working at Beckett's Bank, Leeds. He enlisted into the Public Schools Battalion, as a private, but because of his education was soon given a Commission into the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. In September 1915, he was transferred to the "Pals" whilst they were at Ripon. He immediately became commander of 2 Platoon, 'A' company where his Commanding Officer was Captain Phillip Horace Leyland Mellor. He served with the "Pals" at Ripon, Egypt and France. Robert Huntriss-Tolson led number 2 platoon of A Company in the attack on Serre over the top on 1 July 1916, at the Battle of the Somme. His family must have gone through a very traumatic time as they were being given conflicting information: Yorkshire Evening Post 10 July 1916, Robert Huntriss-Tolson is posted as missing. Yorkshire Evening Post 11 July 1916 - "It now appears that 2nd Lt R H Tolson is no longer missing, but is wounded and in hospital. A telegram to that effect has been received, from the War Office, by his Father". Yorkshire Evening Post 12 July 1916 - "We stated yesterday, through a misunderstanding, that Mr Whiteley Tolson of Dalton, Huddersfield, had heard from the War Office, that his son, 2/LT R H Tolson of the Leeds Pals Battalion is wounded and in hospital. All the news at present, received on Lt R H Tolson is that he was wounded on the 1st July, and this is confirmed by a letter from the battalion chaplain (Reverend

Claude Chappell), to Lt Tolson's wife, but his father has no news of his whereabouts, and is very anxious'. Robert Huntriss -Tolson had in fact been killed on 1 July 1916. He was later buried in Serre Road, No 1 Cemetery. The story of the Tolson family loss did not finish there for on 20 October 1918, the youngest Tolson sibling, James Martin Tolson, at the age of 20, was killed in action. James was a 2nd Lt in "A" Battery, 74th Brigade the Royal Field Artillery He was buried in Quievy Communal Cemetery Extension, Cambrai. Buried in Grave I.B.52, Serre Road Cemetery No.1 (further information can be found at: <http://www.leedspals.co.uk/tolson.htm> in <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/huntriss/FH%20Website/FH%20Website/fam338.html>, accessed 23/04/13).

(WYK1242) 1917–1918 Charles Morton Thorp, First World War correspondence, comprising personal letters and letters from the War Office

Includes letter to his parents thanking them for a parcel and letter, mentioning Horlicks Malted Milk tablets which had been sent to him by the Soldier and Sailor's Fund, letter informing his parents that Private Charles Morton Thorp was gassed on 23 July 1917 and is missing in action, letter informing the family of his death.

(WYK1184) 1903–1934 Alice Ann Bamforth, Slaithwaite, postcard collection including First World War postcards

These cards were the collection kept by Alice Ann Bamforth who lived at Slaithwaite. The majority of the collection cover the period up to and during the First World War, in particular 1915. They divide into three sections having belonged to branches of her family- the Parkins, the Charlesworths and the main ones - the Bamforths. Most of the cards are from and to wider family members and presumably mill friends. One of Alice Ann's uncles, A W Charlesworth of Bankbottom, Marsden, was a clothier and woollen merchant but otherwise the family consisted mainly of mill workers. Alice Ann's aunt, Nelly Parkin, worked in the warping room at Globe Worsted. In 1903, the Bamforths themselves had the Dartmouth Arms, Slaithwaite, but moved. Alice Ann's mother Emily (Mrs Charley Bamforth) was a weaver and Alice Ann was a weaver at J Beaumonts, Colne Mills, Slaithwaite. Alice Ann's younger brother Charlie also became a weaver and the collection contains a photograph of him in the mill. One regular correspondent was (Miss) Lizzie Crosland who lived at Lindley. Charley Bamforth (Senior) seems to be almost totally absent from the life of the family as recorded in the postcards. At the time, postcards were the cheapest and fastest way for people to keep in touch. Much of the correspondence going both ways covered the holiday period. The whole family seldom, if ever, went away together. The face sides of the cards reflect the sense of humour, sentiment and local feeling of the writers. One particular aspect is the way in which messages on the cards record the impact of the First World War. From 1914 onwards, the War intruded more and more, though the routine of work and holidays also went on. Several male members including two Australian connections (Mallinsons) volunteered or were called up. Alice Ann's only brother Charlie was called up in 1916, and died of his wounds in 1917. It is possible that Alice Ann may have been engaged to one of the Mallinsons,

George R Mallinson in the Australian army. If so he too may have been killed, for by the 1930s Alice Ann had not married. Taken from notes written by Robert McMillan (April 2004).

(KC711/5/5-7) 1915–1921 H V Woods, war service and correspondence

(WYK1189) 1888–1957 Minnie Belle Stott, records including correspondence and postcards sent during the First World War to J K D’Arcy from Minnie, Eileen (daughter) and other family members. Also includes photographs

The letters seem to be mainly concerned with family matters and how life is both at home and on the front, with observations about social and political events at home. Various wedding and family photographs and photograph of two family members providing poppy sellers with soup on Poppy Day and a family member collecting on Poppy Day.

(KX472) 1890–1917 Private James Hobson, photocopies of First World War papers

Including notes from James Hobson's notebook relating to the commencement of the War and his enlisting in the Army. October 1914-September 1915, extracts from his diary relating to his injury and hospitalisation April-November 1917, a poem by James Hobson 'Thoughts on the Convalescent Camp, Alnwick', a photograph of James Hobson in uniform and a 11th (Service) Battalion, Duke of Wellington's Regiment Christmas card from James Hobson to his mother 1914. James Hobson (born 1885) enlisted with the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment on 1 October 1914 and was trained and camped in Halifax, North Shields, and Whittington Heath near Lichfield. In June 1915 he was drafted to the 9th Battalion West Riding Regiment, 52nd Brigade, 17th Division and was camped at Hursley Park near Winchester. In July 1915 the battalion went to France and was positioned near Ypres and then near Dickebusch. James Hobson was wounded at Cambrae in April 1917 and was sent back to England on the HMS Princess Elizabeth in May 1917.

(WYK1181) [c1914–1918) Thomas Evans Collection, First World War records, comprising a letter 1917 and photographs

A builder renovating a house in Thornton Lodge, Huddersfield originally discovered these records. There were other letters which had unfortunately disintegrated from the damp. Unfortunately nothing more is known of the writer, Thomas Evans.

Front Line/Military Service

(WYK1746) 1914 – 1918 EXLEY FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS, INCLUDING PRIVATE SAM EXLEY

First World War military photographs c.1914-1918 includes group photographs, individual soldiers,

military band, grave of Private Exley 8th DCLI [Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry]

(KC132) 1894–1911 Cleckheaton, 1st Volunteer Battalion, 'E' Company, records

After 1908, E Company, 1st Volunteer Battalion, West Riding Regiment, Cleckheaton became Cleckheaton Company of the Territorial Army, 4th Battalion, West Riding Regiment.

(KC240) 1914–1918 G K Lockwood from Longwood, cadet in the Artists Rifles Unit, records including lecture notes on musketry, trench warfare, topography, anti-gas procedures and military law, instruction manuals, and record of physical and technical training

G K Lockwood enlisted in November 1916 at the age of 19. He had previously been employed as a woollen manufacturer, living at Longwood. He joined the Artists Rifles Unit and for part of the time was at Hare Hill Camp, Romford, Essex.

(KC491) 1919 168th (Huddersfield) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, dinner menu, with signatures

The 168th Brigade started with 800 men being recruited for the 168th Brigade (Huddersfield), Royal Field Artillery, most of them during May 1915. The Brigade's four batteries were sent to four areas: A Battery, (Huddersfield Battery) based at Huddersfield; B Battery, (Calder Valley Battery) based at Brighouse; C Battery, (Holme Valley Battery) based at Holmfirth; D Battery, (Colne Valley Battery) based at Slaithwaite (further information can be found at: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=136915>, accessed 23/04/13).

(KC647) 1909–1936 Harold Hirst Ramsden, Golcar, photograph albums including the Duke of Wellington's Regiment leaving Huddersfield 1915; and the 9th Battalion West Riding Volunteer Training Corps at camp near Meltham 1917

H H Ramsden was a solicitor in the firm of Ramsden, Sykes, and Ramsden of Huddersfield. He lived at "Oakwell" in Golcar and died in 1949 aged 74.

(KC314/3) 1919–1933 Tolson Museum collection, including military papers

Discharge and pension documents of Herbert Sykes of Huddersfield, private in the West Yorkshire Regiment. One is stamped by the Grand United Order of Oddfellows. Also pamphlet of instruction and admission to the Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home at Lowestoft.

(WYK1142/6) 1949 Harry Taylor manuscript giving details of his time in the Royal Navy during the First World War

(WYK1143) 1885–1919 Harry Flinders Walshaw, First World War records relating to his service in the Royal Engineers, including diary (1917), letters and references (1915–1918), discharge certificate (1917), maps (1917), handbooks (1919), sketched portrait and medical records (1917)

The First World War relied on engineering because without engineers there would have been no supply to the armies. The Royal Engineers maintained the railways, roads, water supply, bridges and transport and they also operated the railways and inland waterways. There would have been no communications, because they maintained the telephones, wireless and other signalling equipment. There would have been little cover for the infantry and no positions for the artillery, because the Royal Engineers designed and built the front-line fortifications. It fell to the technically skilled Royal Engineers to develop responses to chemical and underground warfare, and they maintained the guns and other weapons. Little wonder that the Royal Engineers grew into a large and complex organisation (further information can be found at: <http://www.1914-1918.net/cre.htm>, accessed 23/04/13).

War Hospitals

(KC556) 1915–1919 Huddersfield War Hospital, visitors' book

During the First World the War Office put forward the suggestion of turning certain schools into military hospitals. In the Huddersfield area, Marsh School was chosen, but it soon became apparent that the amount of work needing to be done did not warrant the project to continue. Subscriptions were then raised to produce an up-to-date hospital which was fully equipped. The site chosen was at Royds Hall and it was believed to be the only place in the country to provide a military hospital without any of the expense falling on the War Office. The hospital took three months to build and was opened on 4 October 1915. It provided accommodation for 600 beds with quarters for medical and nursing staff, operating theatre, gymnasium, recreation room and Royal Army Medical Core (RAMC) quarters.

WYK1331 1915–1918 Huddersfield (Royds Hall) War Hospital, photograph album

Possibly belonging to Alice Briar. Photographs show the patients and nursing staff, tug-of-war competition, Private Walter Kirk of the Northamptonshire Regiment, Captain W Brook of the 7th West Riding Regiment, 1916 cricket team and fancy dress ball 1917.

Demobilisation

(WYK872/13/1) c1919 British Red Cross and Order of St John, certificate presented to Percy Cook for services during the First World War

Following the start of the war, the British Red Cross joined forces with the Order of St John Ambulance to form the Joint War Committee. They pooled resources and formed Voluntary Aid Detachments (or VADs) with members trained in First Aid, Nursing, Cookery, Hygiene and Sanitation. These detachments all worked under the protection of the Red Cross, working in hospitals, rest stations, work parties and supply centres. The Joint War Committee also provided assistance at the front line, supplying the first motorised ambulances to the battlefields, which were significantly more efficient than the horse drawn ambulances they replaced. The Joint War Committee was also active in setting up centres for recording the wounded and missing. Red Cross volunteers searched towns, villages and hospitals where fighting had occurred, noting names of the missing, the injured and the dead. This formed the basis of the international Message and Tracing Service, still running today (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Red_Cross, accessed 23/04/13).

Home Front

(B/AN) 1825–1962 Armitage and Norton, chartered accountants of Huddersfield, business and personal records, including newspaper cuttings 1914-1918, war bulletins 1916, and prints of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, undated

(WYK1257/1/1/2) January 1908-October 1921 Card Setting Machine Tenters' Society, minute book, giving details of the 'Great Strike' which lasted for six months during the First World War

With the outbreak of war, the CSMTS saw a period of full employment and earlier disputes were forgotten. As the cost of living rose, however, working men including the CSMTS soon made angry demands to the Government for improved controls and to employers for increased wages. In October 1915, the Cleckheaton Branch passed a resolution that the Society demand of the employers a minimum advance in wages of 15%. Tom Forrest wrote to 17 firms in Lancashire and Yorkshire asking for this with the reply from the Employers Federation being an unequivocal 'No'. The CSMTS hesitated, not wanting to rush into a strike, but a ballot of the Branches saw only 37 voting against strike action. On 11 December 1915, work stopped and strike benefit was set at 16 shillings per week plus 2 shillings for each child; non-members received nothing. The strike lasted for 23 weeks and was the longest stoppage by any group of workers that occurred during the First World War. The CSMTS paid out £3,000 in strike benefits and owed nearly £450 at the end of the dispute. The result of the strike was a 2 shillings per week rise, something they could have had much earlier and was therefore a defeat for the union. The end of the strike saw the union in crisis, but surprisingly, it recovered quickly and by 1917 all debts had been repaid and the small sum of £98 had been banked. At the end of the war, the Society had 237 members in four branches (Mirfield Branch had been merged with

Cleckheaton in 1917) (further information can be found at:

http://archiveswiki.wyjs.org.uk/index.php?title=Card_Setting_Machine_Tenters'_Society, accessed 23/04/13).

(KC1029) 1916–1942 Dewsbury Savings Committee's minutes including War Savings Committee minutes 1916-1917

The National Savings Movement 1916 to 1978 was a British mass savings movement created to raise funds from the public to finance the deficit of government spending over tax revenues. The movement was instrumental during World War II in raising funds to support the war effort. In peacetime the movement provided an easy and safe way for ordinary people to save small sums of money. The movement was created in March 1916 as the National Savings Committee, and was supplemented by volunteer local committees and paid civil servants. A number of different organisations were loosely affiliated to make up the movement, including the Trustees Savings Banks and National Savings (previously the Post Office Savings Bank) (further information can be found at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Savings_Movement, accessed 23/04/13).

Anti-War/Conscientious Objectors

Records of local military tribunals for Batley 1916-1919, Birstall 1915-1917, Huddersfield 1915-1918 and Spenborough 1916-1919

(KC1060/5) c1960s–1970s Archibald F Key, memoirs including his own involvement in radical politics and pacifism and his emigration to the USA on the pacifist 'underground' during the First World War

Documents held at WYAS, Leeds

Record Books/Diaries/Letters

(WYL1526) December 1917–February 1918 William Miles Buckingham of Harehills, Leeds, driver in the Royal Garrison Artillery, India, First World War records including diary and photograph album and HMSO Guide to soldiers serving in India

This collection was created by William Miles Buckingham, whilst serving with the Royal Garrison Artillery as a driver in India. He was born on 11 May 1879 in Carthorpe, Bedale, North Yorkshire to William Henry and Elizabeth Buckingham (nee Fossick), and was a hop merchant. He died on 27 February 1926 from tuberculosis in Harehills and his last occupation was given as printer's clerk.

(WYL739) (1915–c1918) West Yorkshire Regiment, 8th Battalion, (The Leeds Rifles), First World War diary (copy)

When the Volunteer Force became the Territorial Force in 1908, the unit expanded to form two battalions, each over 1,000 strong, the 7th and 8th (Leeds Rifles) Battalions. The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) (TA). In July 1914 both battalions returned early from camp with orders to get ready for war. Many former Leeds Riflemen and new recruits turned up at Carlton Barracks and two second line battalions were formed. The original battalions were identified as 1/7th and 1/8th; the second line as the 2/7th and 2/8th. The first line battalions served in France and Flanders from April 1915 continuously to the end of the war as part of the all-territorial 49th (1st West Riding) Infantry Division. A large part of their active service found them enduring the misery of holding the infamous Ypres Salient as well as the Battle of the Somme, Passchendaele and the final advance to victory. The second line battalions served with the all-territorial 62nd (2nd West Riding) Infantry Division which went on active service in January 1917 when it established a deserved reputation as an assault division. In the fighting to recapture the Marne, the 8th Battalion was decorated with the French Croix de Guerre for its gallantry in capturing Bligny Ridge. From that time all members of the Leeds Rifles wore the ribbon of the Croix de Guerre on their uniform. Some 2,050 members of the Leeds Rifles died on active service in France and Flanders 1915-1918 (further information can be found at: <http://www.yorkshirevolunteers.org.uk/leedsrifles.htm>, accessed 24/04/13).

(WYL2056) 1917 Leonard Wragby, 12th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment with the British Expeditionary Force, First World War letters written to his wife and daughter

Found in his mother's house in Halton. 12th (Service) Battalion formed at York on 16 September 1914 as part of K3 and came under orders of 63rd Brigade, 21st Division. September 1915: landed at Le Havre. 16 November 1915: transferred to 9th Brigade, 3rd Division. 17 February 1918: disbanded in France. Formed 10th Entrenching Battalion with 8th East York (further information can be found at:

<http://www.1914-1918.net/westyorks.htm>, accessed 24/04/13).

Private Leonard Wragby died on 12 December 1917 and was buried at Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery Arras (further information can be found at: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=16120160>, accessed 24/04/13).

(WYL2072) 1915–1916 Mark Wood, 15th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment ('The Leeds Pals'), First World War diary of a 'Lance Jack', detailing his service in Egypt and France

The final number of 'Leeds Pals' eventually rose to approximately 2,000. It would appear that each man chosen to be a Pal had something to offer, be it previous military experience, leadership qualities or physical prowess. A certain high standard had been set and each individual reached this, although the average age was 20-21 years old. Training was rigorous and took place at Colsterdale in the Yorkshire Dales. France was expected to be the Pals first destination but this was not so. Early December 1915 saw the first group of Pals set sail for Suez. Inevitably France was to be for many of the Pals their final destination. On 1 March 1916 the Pals set sail for Marseilles as the Battle of the Somme became imminent. The battle was to prove tragic for them. Twenty-four Leeds Pal's officers went over the top with their men on 1 July 1916. Approximately 750 out of 900 involved in the Somme died. The Leeds Pals suffered in their attack on Serre. Thirteen officers killed, with two more dying of wounds and 209 other ranks killed with a further 24 dying of wounds. It was reported at the time that there was not a street in Leeds that did not have at least one house with curtains drawn in mourning. The survivors of this and later battles came home after the War to receive no counselling or compensation - they just got on with their lives. The British realised that the decision in December 1915 to evacuate the Gallipoli peninsula would release Turkish troops for operations elsewhere. The Turks had already attempted to take control of the Suez Canal in February 1915, hoping to gain support from Egyptian nationalists opposed to British rule. With this in mind, it was decided to stiffen the defences around the canal. Rumours that the "Pals" were going to France were soon dispelled when the transport section of 102 men, under the command of Captain Boardall and Lieutenants Smith and Everitt left Devenport on 6 December on board HMS Shropshire, bound for Egypt. The remainder of the battalion, plus their pioneers (12th K.O.Y.L.I.) and Army Service Corps personnel left Liverpool along with the rest of 93 brigade (6,000 troops) on board The Empress of Britain (a converted liner) on 7 December for the same destination. The Shropshire arrived at Port Said in December. The "Pals" disembarked on the 22nd and marched to No 8 camp, where they stayed acclimatising until the 30th then moved 32 miles up the canal to guard various points in the desert. By late February 1916, the threat of invasion along the Suez Canal had decreased to such an extent that on 1 March, after 3 months of sun, sand, and a few minor skirmishes, the battalion returned to Port Said, gathered up their equipment and stores and marched on board the troopship HMT Asconia for the journey to France (further information can be found at: <http://leeds-pals.com/deployment/egypt>, accessed 24/04/13).

(WYL793) 1859–1968 West Riding of Yorkshire Rifle Volunteer Corps, records including battalion orders, letter books, war diary, scrapbooks

The "Leeds Rifles" were founded in 1859. The title has been ascribed successively to: 11th, later 7th, West Yorkshire Rifle Volunteer Corps (c1870); 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Prince of Wales Own West Yorkshire Regiment (c1900); 7th and 8th Battalions (T.A) West Yorkshire Regiment (1910).

(WYL595/1) [early 20th century] Captain Alexander Basil Crawford, 17th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment, First World War photograph including background information

Captain Alexander Basil Crawford was born c1892 at Coleshill, Warwickshire, to Dr Alexander and Mrs Ety Crawford. Dr Alexander Crawford was the doctor at Healswood, Skegby, for a time around 1912, and was well loved by his local patients. Captain Crawford died during the First World War on Wednesday 10 May 1916, aged 24, and is buried in St Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Richebourg L'Avoue, Pas de Calais in France.

The Captain's Battalion, formed in Leeds as a Bantam Battalion, sailed with the 35th Division for France in January 1916 and in May were in the Neuve Chapelle-Ferme du Bois Sector. On 10 May 1916 the Divisional History recorded "A few quiet days followed, during which Captain A B Crawford and Captain G S de Williams were unfortunately killed in the line by shell burst" (further information can be found at: http://www.oldnotts.co.uk/skegby/memorial/stantonhill/crawford_ab.htm, accessed 24/04/13).

(WYL1526/2) 1917–1918 Photograph album of William Miles Buckingham, Driver C Mountain Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery visit to India

Inscription; 'snaps taken on the north-west frontier, Balughistan, India during the Great War', includes photographs of William Buckingham in uniform and other soldiers, local people and places and Christmas card sent from his father.

The Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) was an arm of the Royal Artillery that was originally tasked with manning the guns of the British Empire's forts and fortresses, including coastal artillery batteries, the heavy gun batteries attached to each infantry division, and the guns of the siege artillery. With the new long-range small arms available to the infantry in the era before the First World War, artillery fighting in the infantry line was increasingly brought under fire. The solution to this was the principle of standing off and engaging the enemy with indirect fire. However, even after this became official military doctrine, field and horse artillery on both sides kept trying to fight in the old way (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Garrison_Artillery, accessed 24/04/13).

Front Line/Military Service

(WYL1728) (1914–1918) Leeds, name Index of men who served in the First World War

Possibly compiled from the Absent Voters List held by Leeds Libraries which can be searched online through www.leeds.gov.uk.

War Hospitals

(WYL1205) 1917–1918 Leeds, Killingbeck Hospital, photographs of patients and staff

Killingbeck Hospital was previously known as Killingbeck Municipal Sanatorium and during the First World War the isolation wards were used for soldiers. The hospital was built in 1913 on the Killingbeck Hall estate and had been purchased by the city council in 1898 from Mrs Meynell Ingram of Temple Newsam. The hall was demolished in 1978. These photographs were given to WYAS by a lady whose father, Mr F Taylor was a patient at the hospital, recovering from his war wounds.

Home Front

(WYL2144) 8 September 1915 Leeds City Police, 'European War, amended Police Instructions in the event of air raid'

(LMT/MO/TCC/199/1) 1951–1960 'Bi-Bq' Morley Borough miscellaneous file including correspondence with various individuals and companies on a variety of subjects including limbless veterans of the First World War

(WYL793) 1859-1968 West Riding of Yorkshire Rifle Volunteer Corps records

(WYL1701) 1922-1999 Leeds Wounded Warriors Welfare Committee records (support of returning wounded soldiers and families)

(WYL230/acc4080/27) 1915–1916 Women Workers, labour shortage and request for women workers during the First World War

During the First World War, many women were able to participate on the home front supporting the men who had gone to fight. They were given the opportunity to help as nurses, teachers, textiles makers, coal miners and clothing, but the largest area in which the women worked was in the munitions factories. Munitions factories were there to produce supplies for the men on the front including tailoring, metal trades, chemical and explosives, food trades, hosiery and woolen and worsted industries. The reason for so many women joining the munitions factories and other parts of the war effort was mixed between the sense of patriotism felt for working and helping their fathers, brothers and husbands fighting, or because the wages received were double what they had

previously made (although it was still less than that of a man's). Nursing became almost the only area of female contribution that involved being at the front and experiencing the War. In Britain the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and Voluntary Aid Detachment were all started before the First World War. The VADs were not allowed in the front line until 1915 (further information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_roles_in_the_World_Wars, accessed 24/04/13).

(WYL1782/2/2) c1917 Photograph album including photographs of factory workers making First World War shells and various First World War shell factories

Containing black and white photographs of George Mann and Company Stall at the National Welfare Exhibition in Leeds Town Hall [1917] with factory workers demonstrating the making of First World War shells, photographs of interiors of Larchfield Mill Shell Factory, Larchfield Works Shrapnel Shop, Goodman Street Shell Factory, Atkinson Street Brass Foundry, Chadwick Street Brass Foundry, Otley Works, Roll of Honour listing George Mann and Company employees enlisted in the First World War.

(WYL115/MA6) 1924 Plan of National Filling Factory, Barnbow, Dept. 85, Leeds

The declaration of war with Germany on 3 August 1914 created an urgent need for large volumes of arms/ammunition although few establishments, apart from Woolwich Arsenal, were involved in this work especially by mass production. Early initiative was taken by Leeds commerce and the city's major firms, with the newly formed Leeds Munitions Committee quickly promoting production of shells at Leeds Forge Company, Armley. Works at Hunslet and Newlay (Horsforth) followed suit. A directing board comprising six Leeds citizens, charged with the construction of the First National Shell Filling Factory, met in August 1915 and a site was selected at Barnbow between Crossgates and Garforth, part of the Gascoigne estate.

The main site, initially some 313 acres (later increased by extension to 400 acres), extended along the eastern part of Manston Lane, embracing two farms at Shippen and Lazencroft, with the North Eastern Railway along the southern boundary. Possessions cleared away from the site were sold by auction, with construction plant and material being quickly transported from Leeds. The Ministry of Munitions architects were Messrs Reed & MacDonald and the main building contractor Wm. Irwin & Co. of Leeds. Groups of workmen, employed by the NE Railway Company, constructed a railway siding laying a main trackway into the factory complex. Platforms some 800 ft. long were built to the Barnbow Halt railway station with adjacent booking office just south of the main factory entrance. The extensive cartridge factory buildings were quickly assembled enabling filling operations to commence in December 1915, after three weeks preliminary trials. About 50 women were employed at this time, the work force eventually increasing to 16,000, 93% of them being women and girls. Rapid progress was made on building changing rooms, canteens, administration blocks and many necessary support facilities. All workers were required to pass a medical examination before employment (this was considered an added safeguard against claims imposing a burden on the compensation department).

Those employed in danger zones were periodically medically examined. Particular attention was given to personal welfare. A lady superintendent, with a staff of welfare workers, was appointed to make regular visits to employees, either at work or during meal times. They also visited anyone on the sick or accident list or those absent from work for any length of time. Tennis courts were available for recreational purposes. A staff of qualified nurses, supervised by the resident doctor and augmented by VAD workers, manned the various rest rooms and surgery. Two qualified dentists manned the dental surgery and apparently, operating days became busy once 'word got around' that patients could expect caring and skilful treatment. The fire brigade was one of the first units to be formed, originally with men but later girls were trained. Eventually 30 girls and 6 firemen, under the control of a skilled firemaster from London, made up the complement. The main factory entrance was between Shippen House Farm and the railway station, incorporating a permit office, pay office and covered waiting room. An 'internal' guard, comprising units of the Royal Defence Corps, of mainly time-expired ex-service men, maintained a 24 hour patrol of the security fence and the superintendent of police with three inspectors controlled male police, whilst a lady superintendent had charge of police women for female search purposes. All personnel were required to wear identity discs and to carry permits, searches being regularly undertaken. Danger areas were under constant surveyance, with 'safe' areas reserved for smokers. There was a complete press blackout of the area. Explosions occurred on three occasions, the first and most serious in one of the fusing rooms on the night of 5 December 1916, when 35 women lost their lives. The injured were taken to the Leeds General Infirmary, aid being provided by the factory medical staff, the ambulance corps and the voluntary motor transport section. Residents of Lazencroft Cottage, at the time, are understood to have witnessed crowds of workers, many with yellowed faces, rushing along Manston Lane, all in a state of great distress. The second accident, three months later on 21 March, 1917, killed two girls and in the third accident on 31 March, 1918 (a time when the King and Queen were visiting Leeds), three men lost their lives. In the traumatic aftermath of these incidents, girls were found readily volunteering to resume work in the danger areas, once repairs had been undertaken. Due to censorship, no account of the accidents was made public; however Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haigh in a special order of the day issued from the British HQ in France, paid tribute to the devotion and sacrifice of the munitions workers. At the end of hostilities on 11 November 1918, all work stopped for the first time. The grand totals of munitions production were :-

B L Cartridges of all sizes completed	36,150,000
Shells filled	24,750,000
Shells completed with fuses and packed	19,250,000
Tonnage of finished ammunition despatched overseas	566,000

(further information can be found at: <http://barwickinethhistoricalsociety.com/4746.html>, accessed 14/08/13)

Anti-War/Conscientious Objectors

(LMT/PU/P1236) February 1916–January 1918 Local tribunal war service appeals copy letter book

From 1916, men seeking exemption from military service could apply to various tribunals. There were three types: Local Tribunals, Appeal Tribunals and a Central Tribunal based in London. Local Tribunals were appointed by the Local Registration Authorities designated under the National Registration Act 1915 (effectively local burgh and city councils). They dealt with attested (voluntary servicemen) and non-attested (conscripted) applications. Recruiting officers or other military representatives were also entitled to attend any hearing and to question applicants. Appeal Tribunals were appointed by the Crown, and in Scotland these were located within sheriffdoms. Any applicant refused exemption by the Local Tribunal, or dissatisfied with the type of exemption granted, had a right of appeal to it. Conversely military representatives or recruiting officers could appeal against the exemption granted to an applicant. A Central Tribunal was appointed for the whole of Great Britain. Any person dissatisfied with a decision of an Appeal Tribunal could appeal to it, but only provided they were given leave to do so. The Central Tribunal frequently took over cases in which conscientious objection was made by men who had already been called up. These records survive in The National Archives at Kew. Exemptions granted by tribunals could be permanent, conditional or temporary, and all were revocable (further information can be found at: <http://www.nas.gov.uk/about/081103.asp>, accessed 26/04/13).

Documents held at WYAS, Wakefield

War Memorials/Rolls of Honour

(C28/1/2/3) 1918–1919 Roll of Honour - three illuminated boards listing those members of the Zion Brotherhood, Wakefield who fought or gave their lives in the Great War

(C506/12/1) 1920–1928 Woolley Parish Council records, including photograph of unveiling of war memorial c1920

This memorial commemorates the residents of Woolley, Woolley Colliery and Brick Row who were killed or missing in the two World Wars. Many of these memorials were erected after the First World War. After the Second World War, the names of those who died in that war were also added (further information can be found at: <http://en.tracesofwar.com/article/16624/War-Memorial-Woolley-Woolley-Colliery-and-Brick-Row.htm>, accessed 26/04/13).

(WDP19/48) – 7 May 1920 Citation for the erection of a coloured carved oak mural tablet concerning the people of Badsworth parish serving in the Great War 1914-1918

Record Books/Diaries/Letters

(C616) Fred Smith of Kirkgate, Wakefield, correspondence

Including (C616/6) 1917 letter to Mrs E Smith, his mother, from Army Pay Office, concerning identity certificate and dependant's allowance: (C616/7) November 1917 Letter to his mother from War Office, concerning her dependant's allowance, (C616/9) February 1918 Letter to his mother from Army Pay Office, concerning the loss of her identity certificate, (C616/10) March 1918 Notification from Germany that Fred Smith is a prisoner-of-war, (C616/11) April 1918 Letter to his mother from the Army Record Office concerning her inquiry about Fred (C616/12) April 1918 Postcard to Mr and Mrs Smith from Fred, sent from prisoner-of-war camp, Guscrow, Mecklenburg, (C616/13) May 1918 Letter to Mr and Mrs Smith from Fred concerning need for cigarettes, hours of work and pay in prisoner-of-war camp, (C616/14) June 1918 Letter to Mrs Smith from War Office giving notification of Fred's capture as a prisoner-of-war, (C616/15) July 1918 Letter to Mr Smith from Army Record Office giving notification of Fred's capture as a prisoner-of-war, (C616/16) July 1918 Memorandum to Mrs Smith from the Paymaster in Lichfield (C616/17) 1918 Letter from King George V welcoming Fred home, (C616/18) c1920 Photograph of Fred Smith visiting war graves with a friend

(WYW1599) 1818– c1950s Miscellaneous records relating to the World Wars, etc including the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), later Queen Mary's Auxiliary Army Corps (QMAAC)

(WYW1670) 1912–1968 Personal and family artefacts of Harold Tippen

Comprises military papers from the First World War including release papers from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and military reserve card, personal artefacts such as NI books and savings cards, job references, certificate for a burial plot at Wakefield Cemetery d.1916, typescript recipe for elderberry syrup, postcards and printed booklets illustrating his interests.

(C407/1/8) 26 March 1918 Letter from Norman Mellor (Winkelman, Arizona) to his sister, talking about the effect of the Great War on food and prices

(C1233) c1916–c1930 Myers, Booth, Miller and Morritt families, Pontefract, personal correspondence and photographs

Letters from J Morritt to his brother from a Prisoner of War camp in Malta, letters to friends and family from Fred Myers and letters of condolence after his death in 1916, photograph of grave of F Higgs in France, 1916, pre - war correspondence of Mr Myers and his employers Hilton Booteries of Pontefract.

Front Line/Military Service

(C1258) 1917 Guy Vernon Heukensfeldt Clayton-Smith, certificate of appointment as 2nd Lieutenant in the First World War Land Forces

(C795/1) 1915–1918 Horace Edwin Holmes, military notebook

Horace Edwin Holmes was born in 1888, married in 1912 and in the First World War he served as a lance corporal, then sergeant, in the West Yorkshire Regiment. There is no diary here of his war service, for which he was awarded the DCM, but there is his notebook of military lessons. After the War he lived at Royston, and his diaries from 1921 record his work in the mining industry, which included service on the South Yorkshire Wages Board, the Joint Board, and the Conciliation Board and advisory committees. He became a JP and councillor for 24 years on Royston UDC, of which he was chairman several times. He also served on the West Riding County Council for 12 years, representing the Cudworth Division. In 1946 he became MP for Hemsworth and held that seat until his retirement in 1959. He was knighted in 1966 for 'political and public services in the West Riding'.

(WRD1/7/11/Box 1) 1920 'The Great War 1914-1918' record of naval or military service of members of the administrative staff of the County Hall of the West Riding of Yorkshire

War Hospitals

(C235/3/2) 1902–1922 Testimonials of Sister E Bolland, including certificate of training, two First World War medals and a Royal Red Cross (2nd Class) medal

Home Front

(C1188) 1913–1919 Under-16 labour certificates for Clara Best of Wakefield and Walter Gill of Leeds, 1913 and 1914; silk memorial of Clifford Gaunt of Sandal who died 1919

(C468) 1914-1918 Edith Annie Hayhurst, Shipley, First World War ration paper

(WRT/1/87) 1914-1917 Register of ex-inmates of Calder Farm Reformatory School, Mirfield, serving in the armed forces during the First World War with index

The school was opened in 1855 and was tasked to reform the character of boys from all over the West Riding who were sentenced to the institution for committing petty crimes. The regime was fairly tough but the boys quite often received better education and care than could have been expected back home. The school eventually closed in 1922 (further information can be found at: <http://sales.mirfield-2ndlook.info/Sample Book/MIRFIELD A SECOND LOOK Sample.pdf>, accessed 26/04/13).

(C1227) 1915-1945 Wakefield Belgian Refugees Committee, First and Second World War records

Copy letter book 1915-1919 with miscellaneous circulars about the Second World War.

(C616/5) c1917 Six photographs of munitions factory in Wakefield (possibly Green's) where Fred Smith's wife worked from the age of 14 years

(WWD1/Box 217/) 1915 -1917 First World War - Government Air Raid Insurance Scheme, records include poster and printed pamphlets

(C888) 1919 Spen Valley and Gomersal records including Gomersal First World War Peace Celebrations poster

(C299/1/2/5/34) May 1917–June 1919 Dredger Boatmen. Includes correspondence regarding 'Transport Workers' and various issues with regards to the First World War

(WWD1/Box 205/592) 1915 Order for restriction of lighting March 1915, letters and a printed poster

(C916) c1916 British Socialist Party, records including notes, correspondence, circulars and notes recording divided policies on the First World War

(C1228) 1917 Wakefield National Motor Volunteers, records

The MVC was formed in London in early 1916 primarily to transport soldiers arriving in London at night after the buses and underground had stopped. A year later it became a nationwide organisation and part of the Volunteer Training Corps (later Volunteer Force) – the First World War equivalent of the Home Guard. It was then also used for transporting Volunteer battalions, evacuating hospitals in the event of an emergency and assisting in the aftermath of air raids. In July 1918 it became part of the ASC and was retitled ASC Mechanical Transport (Volunteers). It was solely for home defence and never served overseas (further information can be found at: <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=51072>, accessed 26/04/13).

(C299/1/2/5/25) Government documents and booklets concerning the First World War

Includes "List of Certified Occupations"; "Changes in List of Certified Occupations"; "Schedule of Protected Occupations"; "Port and Transit Executive Committee"; "Rates of Allotment and Separation Allowance (Army)"; Ministry of Munitions of War"; "The Army Act"; "Port and Transit Executive Committee - Recruiting Amongst Transport Workers"; "Munitions of War (Amendments) Act, 1916"; as well as several other Acts relating to the First World War.

Anti-War/Conscientious Objectors

(C299/1/2/5/30) March 1916–April 1916 War papers – exemption of Aire and Calder employees

Includes documents regarding exemption and application for exemption for employees of Aire and

Calder Navigation; "Application for Exemption" forms filled out by various men, giving name, address and occupation; "Notice of Hearing" forms regarding Leeds Local Tribunal assessment of men who applied for exemption, accompanied by "Notice of Decision" re: decisions of exemptions made by Leeds Local Tribunal; "Notice of Appeal" form and several blank forms headed "National Service - Employers Form of Protest".

(WYW1608) 1917–1920 James Holmes, papers relating to his imprisonment as a conscientious objector

Includes notice to attend the recruiting office, Wakefield, June 1917; second notice to attend recruiting office, Wakefield, June 1917; summons to attend petty sessional division (Lower Agbrigg), April 1917; hearing before the magistrates, nd (c1917); charge sheet, July 1917; classification certificate, 1917; newspaper cuttings, various correspondence, 1917-1919; discharge certificate, 1920; four postcards of Wakefield Prison and Wakefield Works Centre, nd.

