

Lest we forget...

The 1914—1918 War Memorial at Hallam Methodist Church

The names within this booklet are to be found on the plaque at the rear of the church, but unusually do not commemorate previous members of this specific congregation. The memorial was removed from the now demolished Ranmoor Wesleyan Chapel when it merged with St. George's Methodist Church in 1963 to form what we now know as Hallam Methodist Church. In a way, although these men did not worship at what we think of as the church today they are part of our heritage as the two congregations became one and much of Ranmoor's furniture was re-located to the current building, along with its entire congregation.

During the Great War for Civilisation of 1914 - 1918 Sheffield, as with the rest of the country, became caught up in a conflict of hitherto unknown scale. The local Methodist circuit followed a similar pattern to those of other church denominations in the city by actively trying to support local troops and often giving up premises for use as temporary military facilities, like hospitals or for training. The Ranmoor Chapel had to put on hold its plans for a new site on Fulwood Road due to the conflict, and found it harder financially to make ends meet particularly when previously low outgoings were rising steeply, such as fuel costs and insurance (the church had to get extra cover against aircraft accident or raids in March 1918, once again demonstrating the wide-reaching consequences of the war). By the end of the war the church had had continual minor repairs, and eventually the ideas of a new building faded away; despite efforts to raise enough funds to build on the land and acquire more it was eventually sold in 1939. However, for the most part life carried on as normal for the congregation, and the day to day life of the church continued as before — marriages continued to be performed as per usual, with the only marked difference being the groom normally in khaki. Virtually all recorded marriages in the records from Ranmoor between 1916 and 1919 record the groom being a serving soldier, sometimes from a far flung part of the country but with a unit stationed nearby, which by the end of the war was an increasingly common occurrence. The church minutes are startlingly mundane given the global crisis and the national outpouring of grief at the end of the war—two of the Church trustees lost sons (Isaac Burgon & William Kay) but mention is not made of this or to the other 3 casualties at the meetings. A simple request made to the trustees on the June 1921 meeting from the war memorial committee asking to erect the memorial in the church is the only evidence of the wars effect on the community.

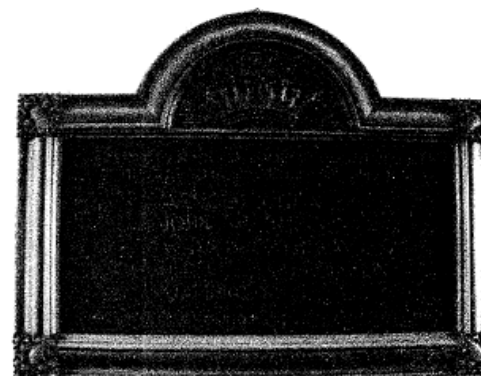
This text has been written in the knowledge that in some cases this may now be the last place where these men are remembered, outside of their headstones and memorials on the Western Front, and it is therefore important that we stop them from fading into the distant past. These are local men, often with local stories to tell and they deserve to have their final years and months recorded for posterity.

Dan Eaton, November 2009

*All proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be
donated to the Royal British Legion.*

Always
Forever

The War Memorial of Hallam Methodist Church



BEAL, Arnold James (2nd Lieutenant)

12th (Service) Battalion, York & Lancaster Regiment (Sheffield City Battalion)
b. 1895, Sheffield Killed in action 1st July 1916 (aged 21)

The first of two Sheffield City men listed on the memorial, Arnold's story is intertwined with that of the name below his, John Burgon, who also served alongside him.

Arnold was born in the prosperous district of Crookesmoor in 1895 and was the son of Arnold Beal (b. 1853) who was a cutlery manufacturer running a long established Sheffield firm, J & J Beal at Redhill Works (presumably in the Redhill area, inbetween Broad Lane and Solly Street, Netherthorpe). His family lived at 43, Marlborough Road in 1901 and Arnold J. Beal was the eldest of four children – Frank was born in 1896, Winifred in 1899, and Laura in 1900. Their mother was Laura (b. 1862). By the time of Arnold's enlistment they had moved up in the world even further and were living in fairly substantial accommodation at Newlyn, Ivy Park Road, Ranmoor.

When war was declared on 4th August 1914 there was a clamour of patriotic fervour from young men wishing to join up to fight the Germans. Many saw it as a just war as Britain's participation was primarily due to her treaty with Belgium, which had its neutrality violated when the German's invaded just days before. However, it was also seen as an opportunity for many to do something different; a chance to get out and see the world. The British Army had dominated its empire for the better part of a century and had lost very few engagements since the Peninsula Wars the better part of a century before. It was perceived to be dangerous and exciting and far more attractive than the mundane humdrum of every day life but at the same time less of a risk as the British Army had been unchecked for so long.

The British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) at this point consisted of just over 120,000 men who were sailing to stop a force of several million; even the confident military tacticians realised the importance of getting greater numbers of men to serve their country. Lots were involved in the Territorial movement (see Maurice Waterfall for more detail), but a new way was needed to gather whole groups of men in one fell swoop. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, a famous and well-decorated soldier who held the position of Minister for War appealed for 100,000 volunteers and the well known 'Your Country Needs You' poster was born as a result. Local councils and public figures began to quickly latching onto the idea of raising a battalion of men serving entirely from one community – Liverpool gave the idea a go first and many other cities followed suited literally within days. The Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University, H.A.L. Fisher was one such individual promoting these ideas and after a lecture given on the war on 1st September 1914 plans were put in motion for 'The Sheffield University and City Special Battalion' to begin recruiting the following afternoon at the Town Hall.

It is very possible that Arnold attended this lecture as he was present on in one of



the massive queues on the afternoon of 2nd September on the steps where crowds gathered to cheer the volunteers on, some with placards reading such things 'to Berlin – via Sheffield Corn Exchange!' (the Recruiting Offices of the time). His service number originally was 12/41 indicating that out of a compliment of over 1000 men he was the 41st in the enrolment book (the 12th prefix being added later to denote that it was the 12th Battalion of the York & Lances). The battalion formally came into being on 10th September but unlike most of the other Pals battalions recruited from the middle classes instead of the working class – it was advertised in the press as being 'For Professional men, for businessmen, for Teachers, for Clerks, for Shop Assistants etc' and many of the men serving within it would eventually be promoted, like Arnold, to officers (although not necessarily within the same unit). Over 1500 men were given the required medical screening by the 11th September 1914, but only 900 passed and this group became the core four companies of the 12th (Service) Battalion (Sheffield City Battalion), York & Lancaster Regiment.



Arnold went to train with the Sheffield City Battalion at Bramall Lane for the first couple of months, where they were issued with their blue training uniforms paid for by the city and the rest of the kit that had to be cobbled together due to the national shortage of arms and khaki material. On December 5th they marched to the newly built camp at Redmires where they were to spend the next months training. On 15th February 1915 Arnold received the news that he had been picked out from his comrades to become one of the unit's junior officers and was duly commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 'B' Company.

The battalion continued to train and moved to Cannock Chase, Staffordshire in May 1915 and then Ripon in early August. After another move to Larkhill and then to Devonport the battalion sailed for Egypt aboard the SS *Nestor* 21st December 1915. They arrived there just hours after the deadline had passed for the award of a further Great War medal, the 1914-15 Star, which was given out in addition to the British War Medal and the Victory Medal at the end of hostilities to any soldier who had served overseas between 20th December 1914 and 29th December 1915; many of the returning City men regretted this fact as the majority of their Pals counterparts received their 1914-15 Star despite leaving Britain at a similar point!

Arnold remained with his unit throughout this time and when their duties were concluded there protecting the Suez Canal from a very real Turkish threat they were dispatched to the Western Front, arriving on 16th March and then travelling by train from Marseilles to the trenches.

After three months at the front their test was finally to come; small skirmishes had taken place and there had been small numbers of casualties but all focus was aimed towards the forthcoming offensive on the Somme in late June. This date was changed at the very last minute due to inclement weather to Saturday 1st July 1916. The Sheffield City Battal-

ion were due to attack in the first wave of troops (many of them Pals battalions) and were given a position just to the north of a tiny wood known as Mark Copse near to Luke and John Copses (the other copse, Matthew to the south made up the four and they were collectively called the Gospel Copses running in a line to the West of a tiny German held village called Serre). They were ordered to attack the German held high ground, with 'A' Company setting off at 7.20am, followed at 5 minute intervals by C Company, then 'B' and finally 'D'. Arnold was in charge of a platoon of approximately 75 men within 'B' Company (approximately 250 men) and went over the top with them at the designated time.

This attack has become infamous within British military history and Arnold became one of the 10,000 deaths that occurred within the first day of the battle. 'B' Company suffered through shelling as 'A' and 'C' Companies went over the top into the balmy sunlight but then all hell seemed to break loose as German machine gunners set up atop their parapets and rained down a hail of fire on the advancing troops. When 'B' Company climbed out of their trenches they were instantly mown down; a survivor recalled that only 50% of the men made it to the uncut wire in the middle of no-mans land. Of all of 'B' Company twelve men managed to scramble into the front line German trenches (the objective for 'A' Company who never made it), and of those just three managed to withdraw again to return back to the British lines.

It is most likely that Arnold made it to no-man's land but no further; survivors simply stated when asked he was seen to be wounded and he was recorded on the final roll of the day as 'Missing, believed wounded'. 'B' Company suffered 123 casualties excluding officers and all the others suffered similarly. Arnold's body was later found and recovered and buried in the Queens Cemetery on the incline that the battalion were attacking up. At the end of the conflict another soldier to be promoted from the ranks, R. A. Sparling (who was the editor of the Sheffield Star in later life) wrote the unit's official war history. Written in an almost 'gung-ho' but yet strangely poignant and emotional style it captures the essence of what these professionals from Sheffield were like, both officers and men. He sums up the entire attack in 'B' Company in just a short paragraph:

"I have written of 'A' Company [Sparling's own Company]. Not an atom behind in the 'Stick it' spirit were the others in 'B' Company. Captain Moore was soon hit and out of action.

Company Sergeant-Major Loxley, who had gone through the South African war with the King's Royal Rifles was lost; so was Lieut. A.J. Beal with many others; but ever a hard bitten lot 'B' Company did credit to their commander Major Plackett and to Sheffield, and to the Chesterfield and Penistone districts from which many of them came."

-Richard A. Sparling, History of the Sheffield City Battalion, 1920

BURTON, John William (12/1149, Private)

b. 1892, Sheffield

Killed in action 1st July 1916 (aged 24)

Slightly slower than Arnold Beal to enlist, John nevertheless volunteered to join the Sheffield City Battalion and was sworn into the same company as his fellow congregation member ('B') around

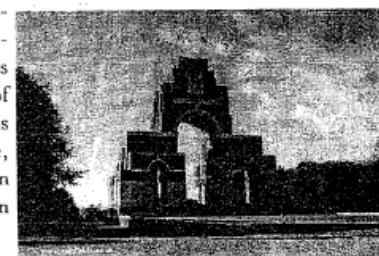


the 9th or 10th September 1914.

When he joined he left his family at 19, Endcliffe Vale Road who consisted of his father Isaac (b. 1857, Hope, Derbyshire) who was a Tea Merchant, his mother Ellen (b. 1858, Bradfield) and his siblings Mabel (b. 1884) and Alice (b. 1887).

John's service history effectively mirrors that of Arnold except that he remained as a Private in the City Battalion, and that in the fatal attack on 1st July he was denied even the simplest of legacies – a known resting place. He, along with 43 other men from 'B' Company, were listed in the final roll call of the day as 'Missing in Action'. This meant that no-one had seen them since the start of the attack, no-one saw them fall and no-one saw any trace of them after the battle ended. In some cases, although relatively few, bodies were later identified and even more occasionally men were announced to have been captured and made into prisoners of war, but for the most part these missing men's remains simply disappeared into the earth around the Somme never to be seen again.

At the end of the war the British government decided that they should be commemorated somewhere and the massive arches and memorials that characterise our views of the Western Front started to appear. John is remembered on one of the biggest of these, Thiepval, along with 72,000 other missing men who died around the Somme region between 1916 and 1918.



KAY, William Ashworth (25270, Private)

14th (Service) Battalion, York & Lancaster Regiment (2nd Barnsley Pals)

b. December 1896

Killed in action 7th August 1917 (aged 20)

Ashworth (as he was known) had grown up in Sheffield, originally on Holland Street (inbetween Portobello Street & West Street) but before the war began had moved to 68, Carsick Hill Road. His father, William Gilbert Kay (b. 1873, Sheffield) was listed as a 'butcher & steel forger' on the 1901 census – not necessarily the most obviously linked jobs, but perhaps essential to support a rapidly growing family. He, and his wife Mary Elizabeth (b. 1874, Sheffield) had Ashworth and four daughters to support: Annie Francis (b. 1893), Gladys Elizabeth (b. 1895), Irene Marion (b. 1900) & Ruth Gertrude (b. 1903).

After leaving school Ashworth was apprenticed as a clerk at Samuel Osborn & Co Ltd, Clyde Steelworks, and when war was declared was in a reserved occupation and so was therefore not expected to enlist. As the war continued and it became apparent that the adage bandied around at the time that it 'would be over by Christmas' was false the army realised it would soon have a shortfall in men. The initial flurry to join up had all but died out by the middle of 1915 and with an ever mounting casualty roll the army decided it had only one way forward, and something that Britain had never had to enforce before: con-

scription. This was to come into force by January 1916 and gradually call up all available men by the following summer, and so accordingly all those who were still not serving with the colours (including those like Ashworth in reserved professions) were classified as a specific group number and told to wait until their group was conscripted. Many men disagreed with this policy, especially as given that when they were conscripted they were sent to whichever army unit needed them as opposed to being given a choice.

Before this happened however, Lord Derby, who was a leading statesman of the time, proposed a scheme that was much more attractive and still guaranteed the required men that would be used prior to the start of conscription. He suggested that men may join the reserve unit of a regiment of their choice and in turn would be sent home again until they were needed. This managed to effectively postpone the onset of conscription and also gave men their preference of military unit; the Derby Scheme as it became known encouraged hundreds of thousands of men to enlist but at the end of the day still did not provide enough troops for the guns of the Western Front and conscription was introduced anyway.

Ashworth was one of these Derby Scheme men and accordingly chose to join the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the York & Lancaster Regiment after visiting its Depot at Pontefract on 26th November 1915. He was sworn in by the battalion Colour Serjeant (the correct military spelling of the rank for the period) H. W. Elliott and told to return home until called for. In response to this Ashworth was also allowed to wear the khaki armband with a red crown on it (number D8378) to show his participation in the scheme, and he received this on 20th December 1915 from Sheffield Council.



According to his enlistment papers Ashworth was 5 feet 5 inches tall, with a 35 inch chest and was declared medically unfit for immediate service - whatever was the cause of this was ignored as he was serving within six months. He was eventually mobilized on the 1st May 1916 and returned to Pontefract for training on 3rd after his employer Saul Osborn wrote to the Corn Exchange Recruiting Offices in the town centre given the prerequisite permission for him to join the York & Lancaster's on 20th April.

Upon completion of his training he sailed from Folkestone to Boulogne on 7th February 1917 as part of a draft of reinforcements for the 10th (Service) Battalion of the York & Lancaster's, but was diverted to 34th Division Infantry Base Depot at Boulogne where he had to wait until the 3rd March before he joined the unit he would serve with until his death, the 14th (Service) Battalion, otherwise known as the 2nd Barnsley Pals. This unit was still being 're-built' after it was involved in the massacre on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916; Ashworth's first experience of trench warfare would have been a harrowing one, as just as he joined them in early March they returned to the same positions they held on 1st July at a time when the Germans were voluntarily withdrawing to more secure trenches. The battalion's history recalls the shock that these troops received in having to pass the badly decaying bodies of their comrades in order to occupy old

German front line: there had been that little movement in the sector between the 1st July 1916 and March 1917 that the men's bodies who fell in the first attack were still out in no-man's land eight months later. It is hard to imagine how Ashworth would have felt having to spend his first few days of active service clearing up the corpses in the dank and miserable winter conditions of Northern France.

After three months of service Ashworth was wounded, not in the Battle of Oppy Wood of May 1917 that had claimed the lives of 113 of his peers, but whilst involved in a working party in 'Windmill Trench' near Gavrelle Windmill that was shoring up the trench walls after bad shell damage on 20th May. He was sent firstly to the 6th Field Ambulance and then to the 42nd Casualty Clearing Station, both front line sections of the medical evacuation chain for wounded troops and was suffering from 'a badly sprained right ankle' before being finally admitted to the 18th General Hospital at Amiens on 21st May 1917. He was discharged a fortnight later after having to be involved in an official military tribunal to determine whether his accident was as it seemed or a deliberate attempt to escape the trenches. The military hierarchy at this time were paranoid about self inflicted wounds and would court martial any man found using this method to give himself a 'Blighty' (a wound serious enough to be sent home); by the end of the war many men had been shot at dawn for their indiscretions. Ashworth was luckily cleared and returned to the Barnsley Pals on 14th June, after a fortnight of additional training in the city of Etaples (pronounced 'eat apples' by most Tommies).

He returned just in time for a dramatic trench raid on 28th June 1917 to the German held 'Cairo Alley' which the British had failed to hold in the previous battle of Oppy Wood but the Barnsley Pals captured their entire objective within a matter of hours (which was 1000 yards of German held front line trench) and sustained just a handful of casualties and only 2 deaths from two thousand men. This was to be one of the Barnsley Pals' finest hours and Ashworth's only major engagement.

On 2nd July the battalion moved to occupy a 'quiet' sector further down the Somme opposite the German held village of Acheville. Their main jobs between then and October 1917 were merely to hold the line and carry out regular patrols to make sure the British Intelligence knew what the Germans were doing. It was on one such patrol on 7th August that Ashworth was killed in action - the battalion history records it as being that quiet a time that specific incidents and patrols are not even mentioned, so unfortunately the minutia surrounding Ashworth's death will remain unknown.

Unlike many of his comrades, Ashworth's body was not lost and he was laid to rest in The Beehive Cemetery in the village of Willerval by his fellow Barnsley Pals. His possessions were recovered and his family were sent the entire contents of his time at the front. This list survives as part of the documentation associated with him and shows that the following items were returned to the grieving family on Carsick Hill Road: one identity disc, letters, photos, pipe, mirror, cigarette case, purse, wallet and whistle. They arrived on 7th September and his mother had to return the associated paperwork stating that she had received them.

At the end of the war the family were sent the British War Medal & Victory Medal that all soldiers were entitled to for serving overseas named to 25270 PTE. W. A.

KAY YORK & LANCS and the minister for Ranmoor Chapel, the Rev. Ralph Dixon, helped them to fill in the required paperwork for a pension as a result of a war death, which was obviously granted with 3/6 paid per week to his mother for as long as she lived. The family had no other sons so with Ashworth's death their male line died out; it is certain however that three of the four Kay girls were married at Ranmoor between his death and 1924—his elder sister Annie marrying another soldier (405338 L/Corporal Thomas Dawson of Crookes who was serving with the 2/3 West Riding Field Artillery Brigade) home on leave just eight months later in March 1918, probably to the anxiety of the rest of the family.

Ashworth remains to this day in The Beehive Cemetery, and is one of only a few Englishmen buried there as the majority are Canadians who died capturing the nearby Vimy Ridge in May 1917. There is only one other York & Lancaster man there, George Eder who was one of the original Barnsley Pals from the 13th Battalion and who was killed on 10th August just 72 hours after Ashworth's death. They are buried within two graves of each other and show how despite the fact it was a quiet sector Acheville was just as deadly as many of the other battlefields of the Somme.

ROBINSON, Herbert Henry Walter (2552, Serjeant)

11th Battalion, Australian Infantry Force

b. 1894, Upper Hallam Killed in Action between 20th & 23rd August 1916 (aged 22)

A Sheffield lad by birth, Herbert had emigrated to Australia after leaving school leaving his family behind at their home in Ranmoor Road where they had lived for many years. Herbert came from an affluent background as his father Albert (b. 1867) was a goldsmith. The rest of their family were his mother Rhoda (b. 1867) and his brothers Cyril (b. 1898) and Ernest (b. 1901).

The 11th Battalion were raised around the Perth region of Western Australia in August 1914 as the very first Australian fighting unit formed specifically for the duration of the war and departed for Freemantle on 31st October 1914. After four months intensive training in Egypt they were hastily dispatched to Gallipoli and landed as some of the first troops ashore in Anzac Cove on 25th April 1915. Herbert fought with them there before they were eventually evacuated along with the rest of the Allied troops in December 1915 and were sent back to Egypt.

By March 1916 more troops were needed on the Western Front and the 11th Battalion, including Herbert, were sent to help reinforce the trenches, arriving on 13th March 1916. After a period of 'settling in' they were posted to the Pozieres region of the Somme in late June 1916 and were subject to some of the fiercest fighting during the Battle of the Somme.

Affectionately known as 'The Diggers' by other Allied troops the Australian forces were designated to attack an area on Pozieres Heights known as Mouquet Farm (more commonly 'Moo Cow Farm' to the Diggers) after the village of Pozieres was captured in



late July. On 8th August the 4th Australian Division attacked this ridge and suffered over 4,500 casualties within the next ten days, primarily from heavy German shelling, but also due to the fact that they were facing a veteran and 'elite' German Corps, the German Guard Reserves. They were withdrawn and Herbert's division (the 1st) were put into the line instead and by the 20th were ready to attack again. Their attack was similarly met and within a three day period the division suffered a further 2,650 deaths before they eventually retired as well. It took a further two divisional attacks and a total of 23,000 casualties before the Germans eventually withdrew on the 28th August.

Herbert's body was recovered after the war and buried in the Serre Road No. 2 Cemetery, which contains the bodies of over 7,000 men who mainly fell in the summer of 1916. His record on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is interesting however as unlike virtually every other soldier it records it cannot give a specific date of death other than the period in which the 11th Battalion were in the front line (20th – 23rd August). The most likely reason for this is that his body was recovered after the end of hostilities and identified, but at the time of his death he was posted 'Missing In Action'; presumably after the first attack on the 20th, so like John Burgon his final hours will forever remain shrouded in mystery.

WATERFALL, Maurice (202754, Private)

2nd/4th (Territorial) Battalion, York & Lancaster Regiment

b. 1883, Sheffield Killed in Action 27th September 1918 (aged 35)

The Waterfall family had been members of Ranmoor Methodist Chapel for many years and Maurice had grown up on Carsick Hill Road and later 18, Bramwith Road, Nether Green. He came from a solid working class family, his father Thomas (b. 1858, Sheffield) being a Hand File Cutter whilst he and his elder brother John (b. 1881) were Machine File Cutters. Their younger brother Louis (b. 1886) 'bucked the trend' slightly by being a Golf Caddy at the nearby Hallamshire Golf Club, which between its opening in 1900 and 1914 had gained a nationally recognised reputation. Their mother was Selina (nee Pitchford, b. 1859, Sheffield) and the family also had a further five children – Alice (b. 1879), Edith (b. 1889), Florence (b. 1892), Winifred (b. 1894), Stanley (b. 1896) and Albert (b. 1899). It must have been quite cramped growing up there as there can't have been much room for 11 people in a terraced house!

In a similar scenario to Ashworth Kay, Maurice did not volunteer in the early days of the war but instead waited until conscription was looming and took advantage of the Derby Scheme. He was of an older age (over ten years older than the next eldest casualty) compared to all the others on the memorial and probably felt that it was a younger man's job, but knowing that as he was still within the acceptable age range for the Armed Services realised that he would be in the of the very first groups to be called up. As a result



he chose to join the local Territorial Force unit, the Hallamshire Battalion, of the York & Lancaster Regiment in early January 1916.

In 1908 there had been a series of reforms within the structure of the Army which brought previously independent local militia and attached them to specific local regiments. The Hallamshire Rifle Volunteers, who had been training in the district since the 1860's, were accordingly attached to the closest regiment, the York & Lancaster's and re-named the 4th (Hallamshire) Battalion. The organisation and training effectively remained the same, but unlike their previous incarnations these new territorial battalions could see active service as a unit if war were declared. When the Great War broke out on 4th August 1914 all territorial soldiers were called upon to join their battalions and make ready for the front, though in many cases this did not occur until after several months training.

As Maurice was not one of the Hallamshire's at that point he did not receive these mobilisation papers and it was not until later on in 1916 that he received his call. By this time the original Hallamshire unit, officially designated the 1st/4th Battalion, was fully manned and from mid April 1915 they fought on the Western Front distinguishing themselves from that point onwards. Maurice therefore could not accompany the 1st/4th, so was sent to the 2nd Line (or reserve) Hallamshire unit, which was known as the 2nd/4th Battalion. Later, a 3rd/4th Hallamshire Battalion was raised locally as a training and reserve unit that remained in the UK in order to feed fresh troops to the other two units who by the end of the war were both serving overseas.

The 2nd/4th was originally intended purely for training purposes and for UK guard duties only, but it was decided in late 1916 as a result of the Military Service Act (conscription) that some 2nd line territorial units should be sent to the Western Front in order to create more divisions and boost the number of men there. The 2nd/4th Hallamshire's were chosen as one of these units and were part of the newly formed 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division who landed in France on 5th February 1917 and were concentrated ready for placing in front line trenches around Authie by 18th February (the Hallamshire's sailed from Southampton to Le Havre on the 13th). Maurice was definitely one of these troops, as is shown by his service number. By this point in hostilities the army record system could not cope with the sheer volume of men serving and the vast reams of paperwork generated and all territorial soldiers were re-numbered in February 1917: the 2nd/4th Hallamshire's who landed at that time were all numbered between 202000 and approximately 202999, of which Maurice's number fits nicely into this grouping.

Unfortunately, as individual his service records have not survived it is virtually impossible to reconstruct his time in France and Flanders, but using what information is available about his battalion the following is known. The 2nd/4th Hallamshire's fought in many major engagements between February 1917 and his death, and assuming he wasn't wounded he would have been present at: Operations on the Ancre, the Arras Offensive of Spring 1917, Operations around Cambrai, the Battle of Bapaume, the Battles of the Marne & Scarpe.

At the time of his death the Hallamshire's were embroiled in one of the final offensives to reach the town of Cambrai. The Canal du Nord was an area of the intensely forti-

fied Hindenburg Line that the Allies had to capture in order that they could continue their ever-quicken advance and hundreds of thousands of troops were committed to ensuring the assault was a success. The 62nd Division were to attack under cover of darkness in the first wave of troops and at 4am on the 27th September climbed out into no-man's land and charged the enemy, who until that point were unawares. Maurice was not one of the leading men, and the Hallamshire's only seem to have suffered slight casualties as the Germans in the region had capitulated by midday of the 27th.

Maurice, it is suspected, was probably killed by an errant German shell just before the attack began as the Hallamshire's in the end were not required as they were in one of the later waves, and in the cemetery he is buried (Grand Ravine British Cemetery, Havrincourt) there are only five burials to their unit in two small groups. Maurice is buried next to Corporal Arthur Hickenbotham, a 34 year old from Leicester and it is likely the two men were stood side by side when they were killed for them to be interred in such close proximity to each other. Hickenbotham's somewhat colourful service record does survive (he was tried for desertion and stealing army equipment earlier in 1917, but was given a two year suspended sentence until the war was over), and this states that he was killed in action on the morning of the 27th, further supporting the shell theory.

The Waterfall family, whilst grieving for the loss of Maurice were in some ways luckier than many other families in the area and out of their five sons only two were actually to serve, the others presumably being in reserved occupations. Stanley Waterfall, Maurice's little brother was another York & Lancaster man (serving as 24103 Pte. S. Waterfall) but managed to get transferred to the Water & Railways section of the Royal Engineers (serving as WR/510160 Sapper Waterfall) in 1917 in a move which probably saved his life and saved the family any further suffering.

Bibliography & Acknowledgements

- COOKSEY, J. 1996. *Barnsley Pals*. Barnsley: Leo Cooper.
- FLAVELL, N. 2006. *From Goole Green to Nether Green: The Roots & History of Hallam Methodist Church 1756—2006*.
- GIBSON, R & OLDFIELD, P. 2006. *The Sheffield City Battalion: A history of the Battalion raised by Sheffield in World War I*. Barnsley: Leo Cooper.
- NATIONAL ARCHIVES. 2009. World War I Service papers (courtesy of www.ancestry.co.uk).
- SPARLING, R.A. 1920. *The Sheffield City Battalion*. Sheffield: J.W. Northend.
- Other websites consulted: The Long, long Trail (www.1914-1918.net), Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org), The Sheffield Memories Forum (www.sheffieldhistory.co.uk) & The Great War forum (www.1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums).
- Many thanks to Dean of the Sheffield Memories Forum for the images of Arnold Beal and Maurice Waterfall—something I never thought would be possible!