



Gainford's Fallen Tommies



During the First World War 26 men left the Parish of Gainford to serve and die in the conflict. The impact of their loss would have been considerable upon their rural communities at home. To mark the centenary of the Armistice, the Gainford's Fallen Tommies project aims to remember the lives, the contribution and the loss of each individual serviceman by positioning a Tommy close to their former home address, in the week preceding Remembrance Sunday. Each Tommy will include some personal details of their life in Gainford parish, so they are no longer just a name on a war memorial.

On Sunday 11th November 2018 the Tommies will be brought to the churchyard at St Mary's church in Gainford, to stand amongst local people and the families of the servicemen who gather at the war memorial to hear the names of the fallen servicemen read out.

Everyone is welcome to come to the churchyard at 10.45am on that Sunday, to remember the fallen men and reflect upon the impact of the 1914-18 war on our community.

The 26 Fallen Servicemen

Outlined below is what is known of the life of each serviceman in their home community, with details of their military service and final resting place. This information is being shared so that we might keep their stories alive.

Private 184386 Frederic Atkinson

Lived at The Green, Gainford

Plumber

Sidesman and member of choir at St Mary's church, Gainford

Served Labour Corps (formerly Durham Light Infantry)

Died at home on leave 7th October 1917, aged 34

Buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Gainford

Lance Corporal 2797 William Henry Bayles

Lived at The Green, Gainford

Educated at St Bede College, Durham University

Teacher at Gainford School

Freemason

Served 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry

Died 27th April 1915, aged 26

Buried Cement House Cemetery, Langemarke, Belgium



Private M2/116833 Charles Edward Bonnier

Lived at stable block, Selaby Hall, Gainford

Chauffeur

Member of choir at St Mary's, Gainford

Served Army Service Corps 388th Mechanical Transport Coy

Died 22nd December 1916, aged 33

Buried Lounguenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France

Rifleman 325056 Thomas Edward Clarkson

Lived Back Lane (now Main Road) Gainford

Coal miner

His father was railway porter at Gainford. His parents are buried in St Mary's churchyard, Gainford

Served 1/7th Battalion West Yorkshire (Prince of Wales Own) Regiment

Died 31st March 1918, aged 24

Buried Menin Road South Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

Private 42853 John William Cowper

Lived Morley Bank, Gainford

15th Battalion Durham light Infantry

Recorded as William Cooper in some military records

Died 4th October 1917, aged 24

Remembered on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

2nd Lieutenant George Edward Gent

Lived at 8 Tees View, Gainford

Ticket Inspector for North Eastern Railways

Gymnast

Served 379th Battery Royal Field Artillery

Died 14th September 1917, aged 33

Buried Erquinghem Lys Churchyard Extension, France



Private 200206 Frederick Ernest Harness

Lived at Selaby. His parents lived at The Lodge, Selaby Hall

Horseman on farm

His cousin, Cecil Harness, died of wounds in April 1918

1st/5th Battalion Durham Light Infantry

Died of pneumonia 3rd November 1918 (8 days before end of the war), aged 24

Buried St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France

Lance Corporal 29616 Thomas Harrison

Lived Summerhouse (then in Parish of Gainford)

Tradesman

11th (Service) Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment (2nd Hull) Hull

Died 27th March 1918, aged 24

Remembered Arras Memorial, Arras, France



Lance Corporal 200184 Frederick Herron M.M.

Lived at Cliffe Bank Cottage, Piercebridge (then in Parish of Gainford)

Horseman on farm

Youngest of 6 brothers and 1 sister. Eldest brother Herbert was gamekeeper on Cliffe Estate

4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment

Awarded Military Medal 7th October 1918 (London Gazette)

Died 29th October 1918, aged 23

Buried Etaples Military Cemetery, France

Stoker 1st Class K/2805 George Hobson

Lived Maidstone Cottage, Chapel Terrace, Gainford

Submariner in military service in Royal Navy H.M.S./M D2

First known casualty of Gainford Parish

Died 1st December 1914, aged 26

Remembered Portsmouth Naval Memorial

Private 25/269 William Humberstone

Lived on The Green, Gainford

Gardener , previously steelworker, miner, stonemason

25th Battalion (2nd Tyneside Irish) Northumberland Fusiliers

Died 1st July 1916 (first day of the Battle of the Somme), aged 38

Buried Bapaume Post Military Cemetery, Albert Somme, France

Rifleman 554731 Wallace Hayler Legg

Lived at Pearcefield, Darlington

Book keeper at Cliffe Estate

Details on brother's enlistment papers (John Legg)

1/16th Battalion London Regiment (Queens Westminster Rifles)

Died 28th August 1918, aged 19

Remembered Vis en Artois Memorial, Arras, France

Private 15385 Joseph William Marshall

Lived at the Vicarage, Gainford

Grandfather gardener at Vicarage

11th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

Died 7th July 1916, aged 31

Buried Gordon Dump Cemetery, La Boiselle, Albert Somme, France

Private 19913 Harry Miller

Lived at The Green, Gainford

Farm worker

11th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

Died 15th October 1917, aged 29

Harry's wife had died in 1915, leaving 4 young children, who were then separated

Distinguished himself by "conspicuous bravery in the field"

Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Flanders, Belgium



Private 4216 Enoch Newton

Lived Back Road (now Main Road), Gainford

Upholsterer

4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment

Died 2nd August 1916, aged 47

Buried Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension Nord, France

Son (Joseph Alexander Newton) awarded Military Medal

Private 98786 Wilfred Parker

Lived Morton Tinmouth

General dealer, Grocer

240th Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Died 20th October 1917, aged 25

Remembered Tyne Cot Memorial, Flanders, Belgium

Private 30539 John William Potter

Builder's Labourer in 1911

Believed to be related to Robert Henry Potter and Susan Potter of Memorial Cottages, Manfield and Violet Catherine Potter of New Cottages, Cliffe

2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment

Died 2nd April 1917, age 27

Remembered Arras Memorial, France

Gunner 33600 Gilbert Christopher Robinson

Lived at uncle's farm - Under Kneeton Farm, Melsonby

Farm Labourer

Relatives lived at Glen Cottage opposite The George Hotel, Cliffe

A battery 277th Brigade Royal Field Artillery

Died 5th June 1917, aged 21

Buried Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinghe, Belgium

**Private 241064 William W Scott**

Lived Piercebridge Mill

Traction Engine Driver

12th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment

Died 11th April 1918, aged 39

Remembered Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium

Private 57198 John Smith

Lived South Terrace, Gainford

Bank Clerk for Barclays Bank

Married to Maria, nee Leibfried. Her father born in Stuttgart, Germany.

He was butcher at Summerhouse.

2nd /5th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own)

Died 13th April 1918, aged 33

Buried Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France

Private 36512 Ernest Snailham

Lived Meavey Cottage, Gainford

Gardener

1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

Died 20th September 1918, aged 28

Remembered Vis en Artois Memorial, Arras, France

Private 35263 Frederick Snowdon

Lived at Langton

Cowman on farm

7th Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Died 18th August 1917, aged 22

Buried Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Flanders, Belgium

**Corporal 25/612 George Ramshay Sutton**

Lived Tees Cottages, The Green, Gainford

Farmer/Coal Miner

25th Battalion (2nd Tyneside Irish) Northumberland Fusiliers

Died 1st July 1916 (first day of the Battle of the Somme), aged 25

Remembered Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



Private 39719 Harold Dean Tennick

Lived Church Row, Gainford

Telegram messenger

His father was the village postman

15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry

Died 26th March 1918, aged 19

Buried Dernacourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

Private 1581 John Francis Waller

Lived 13 The Green, Piercebridge (The Smithy)

4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment

Died 17th September 1916, aged 26

Remembered Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

Private 624884 William Wright

Barn House, The Green, Gainford (was Butchers Shop)

Farmer

Emigrated with family to Lougheed, Alberta, Canada

Enlisted with 8th Battalion Canadian Infantry

Died 22th June 1917, aged 22

Buried Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont St Eloi, Pas de Calais, France



The Gainford's Fallen Tommies project would not have been possible without the funding provided by the Gainford Parish Charitable Trust and the Gainford and Langton Parish Council and the enthusiastic and generous support of local businesses, village groups and interested individuals. Your contributions are much appreciated.

Thank you.