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Huddersfield's roll of honour: 1914-1922

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TOLSON, JAMES MARTIN. 2nd Lieutenant. "A" Battery, 74th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Born Oak-lands, 1 Greenhead Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield 26.3.1898. Youngest son of Whiteley and Jessy Tolson. Educated at Bramcote, Scarborough, and Uppingham Public School, Rutland, which he left in December, 1915. He had been awarded a place at University College, Oxford. Single. Enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company in April, 1916. Was commissioned into the R.F.A. on 20.2.1917. Was wounded in October, 1917, near Ypres. He was treated at Fazakerley Hospital. He returned to France and was gassed in June, 1918, near Adinfer. He rejoined his Battery in July, 1918. Was wounded, 20.10.1918, near Cambrai. Died of wounds, 20.10.1918, aged 20 years. Buried QUIEVY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION. Grave location:- Row C, Grave 51. [Brother of Second Lieutenant ROBERT HUNTRISS TOLSON, killed in action, 1.7.1916, q.v.]. ROH:- Huddersfield Parish Church; St. John's Church, Kirkheaton; The Tolson Memorial Museum.

TOLSON, ROBERT HUNTRISS TOLSON. Lieutenant. 15th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment [1st Leeds Pals]. Born Elm Lea, Dalton, Huddersfield, 6.11.1884. Son of Whiteley and Jessy Tolson, Oaklands, 1 Greenhead Lane, Dalton. Educated Aysgarth School, near Newton le Willows, and King William's College, Castletown, Isle of Man. Employed at the Leeds branch of the Becketts Bank. On 9.10.1909 married Miss Zoe A. Stanley, "Kirk Lea", Driffield. Enlisted as a Private in the Public Schools Battalion in September, 1914. Obtained a commission in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in January, 1915. Transferred to the 15th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment in September, 1915. Went with them to Egypt in September, 1915. Returned to France in March, 1916. Killed in action at Serre, 1.7.1916, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, aged 31. His father received a telegram informing him that his son had been wounded. Second Lieutenant Tolson's body was eventually found in March, 1917, and he is buried in SERRE ROAD CEMETERY No 1. Grave location:- Plot 1, Row B, Grave 52. [Brother of 2nd Lieutenant JAMES MARTIN TOLSON, died of wounds, 20.10.1918, q.v.]. ROH:- Huddersfield Parish Church; St. John's Church, Kirkheaton; The Tolson Memorial Museum; commemo-rated on headstone in Kirkheaton Cemetery.

GUEST, HERBERT. Lance Corporal. No 2124. 2nd Battalion The Black Watch. Formerly No 10078 Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Born Douglas, Isle of Man, 26.11.1892. Son of Arthur Henry and Sarah Ann Guest, 12 South Parade, Huddersfield. Educated Spring Grove Board School. Employed as a grocer's assistant. Single. Enlisted in May 1911. When war broke out he had been stationed in India for nine months. He came over to France with the 1st Indian Expeditionary Force in September, 1914. The last letter his parents received from him was on 22.9.1915, when he asked them "not to send him any further parcels or letters as he expected to be home on leave in the course of a few days. Killed in action at the Battle of Loos, 25.9.1915, aged 23 years. Has no known grave. Commemorated LOOS MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING. His parents received a letter from Captain M. E. Raylin, of the 2nd Battalion Black Watch who wrote, "I am very sorry indeed to tell you that your son, No 2124 Lance Corporal Herbert Guest, was killed in action on the morning of the 25th September during an exceedingly successful charge in which the Regiment completely broke the German line. Your son had only just received the lance stripe but I had every reason to be more than pleased having recommended him for it. He was an N.C.O. of quite unusual promise and had already shown himself a most useful and fearless soldier. He is a very great loss to the Company."
BAILEY, THOMAS DISMORE. Private. No 3189. “B” Coy, 1/5th Battalion Duke of Wellington’s Regiment. Born Field Street, Marsh, 29.12.1895. Son of Samuel and Selina Bailey of 5, Holme Place, Grasscroft Road, Marsh. [Samuel Bailey was employed as coachman by Mr J.H. Sykes, “Bryancliffe,” Edgerton, Huddersfield]. Educated at Holy Trinity Church School, Huddersfield. He was a member of the choir at Holy Trinity Church. Worked as a tailor’s cutter for Messrs Bairstow, Sons and Company. Enlisted 6th October, 1914. Went out to France April, 1915. Was a stretcher-bearer in the Ambulance Section. Was shot by a sniper whilst going out to rescue a wounded comrade, 14.6.1915, aged 19 years. Buried RUE-DAVID MILITARY CEMETERY, FLEURBAIX. Grave location:- Plot 1, Row B, Grave 13. ROH:- Holy Trinity Church, Huddersfield; Huddersfield Drill Hall. His parents received the following letter from their son’s Commanding Officer, Captain J. E. Eastwood, who wrote:- “We had just one man badly wounded, and your son, as a stretcher-bearer, was attending to him, when I heard that we had another man wounded higher up in the trenches, so your son set off to attend to him, and while doing so was shot dead on the spot.” Lieutenant A. L. McCally of the R.A.M.C wrote:- “As you know, I have not been very long in charge of the Ambulance Section, but I have heard nothing but praise of your son from Sergeant Flood and his late comrades. He was always willing to do his share of whatever was in hand, and the fact of his at once going out to a dangerous place to help a wounded man shows that he had the very highest conception of what his duty was.”

VARLEY, JOE. Lance Sergeant. No 1174. 1/7th Battalion Duke of Wellington’s Regiment. Born Marsden. Second son of Luke and Agnes Varley, 28 Plains, Marsden. Employed as a spinner by Mr J. E. Crowther, of Marsden. Was a member of the Marsden Wesleyan Sunday School. Played the cornet in the Marsden Brass Band. Enlisted at the outbreak of the war. Embarked for France in April, 1915. Killed in action, 20.9.1915, aged 20 years. Buried BARD COTTAGE CEMETERY, BOESINGHE, BELGIUM. Grave Location:- Plot 1, Row H, Grave 22. (Brother of Private JAMES W. VARLEY, died at home, 6.5.1919, q.v.). His parents received a letter from their son, Private James W. Varley, who wrote, “Yesterday afternoon about 3pm our Joe was hit by a bullet but mercifully he did not suffer a moment’s pain as it at once made him unconscious. He lived about twenty minutes and passed away quite peacefully in my arms. Fortunately I was close to him at the time and I am thankful to say that everything was done that could be done for him both before and after he passed away by both Officers and men. He was buried in a graveyard about one and a half miles behind the firing line. Major Wilkinson completely broke down once reading the service.” ROH:- Huddersfield Drill Hall; Marsden War Memorial.