



Escrick and Deighton War Memorial

In the aftermath of World War One, when the number of lives lost had reached unprecedented figures, the British government took the difficult decision not to repatriate members of the armed forces who lost their lives on foreign soil. The logistical and financial implications of repatriation were so high, combined with the belief that the dead should be treated equally regardless of rank and wealth, meant that casualties were buried in cemeteries near the battlefields where they died. Many more casualties have no known grave and were commemorated on memorials to the missing. This meant that many families were left without a body to mourn. In 1920 The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior was installed in Westminster Abbey, providing a place for bereaved families to mourn. However, this did little to help families in areas distant from the capital.

The idea of war memorials stemmed from the needs of communities across the country to address this huge loss of loved ones who had given their lives during this terrible conflict. There was a need to provide an accessible place where family and friends could come to honour and remember their dead.

In the early 20th century, Escrick was still very much an estate village owned by Irene Lawley. Escrick itself had a population of 597 both in 1911 and 1921. Deighton's population was 200 in 1901. Irene Lawley also owned part of the nearby village of Deighton, the rest of which was owned by the Baines family. In addition, during WWI Escrick Park, owned by Irene Lawley, was used as a Red Cross Hospital for officers.

Following the end of the Great War, adding to the national crisis and impoverished state of the nation, the Spanish 'flu also generated a heavy death toll amongst an already devastated population. During this period the government issued guidelines for communities to form War Memorial Committees (WMCs) to organise and determine the design, location, fundraising initiatives and the names that should appear on a memorial.

Escrick and Deighton War Memorial

November 2020

Poor means of communication and ambiguous guidelines, together with other exacerbating factors meant that many WMCs failed to produce a balanced representation of a community and confusion about the eligibility of names to be included on memorials. Such was the case with Escrick and Deighton.

At a public meeting on 14 January 1919 the project commenced for Escrick and Deighton to remember its WWI fallen soldiers. A War Memorial Committee (WMC) was organised. Members represented some of the bereaved families and local landowners. After several meetings and deliberations the Committee agreed that the ideal location for the memorial should be close to the main entrance to St Helen's Church and take the form of a symbolic cross. It was designed by the architect Temple Moore to meet a budget of £400. The war memorial cross was made from Hopton Wood stone by T S Ullathorne & Sons of Selby for Temple Moore, at a cost of £168 and 6 shillings. Rev'd Trollope, a member of the WMC, played a significant role in obtaining the obligatory faculty licence from the Diocese for installing the memorial in the churchyard.

Fundraising proved to be a major challenge as there was no government money or corporate sponsorship. Funding depended on subscriptions from the local community. A total of 95 subscriptions were received for the Escrick and Deighton War Memorial Fund. Some of these came from individuals, others from families or small groups. Donations ranged from one shilling to fifty pounds.

The War Memorial unveiling ceremony was held on 24 July 1921. The memorial was unveiled by Brigadier General Mends and an address given by Rev'd Chancellor Austen.



Through research undertaken by several members of our community we have been able to draw up a Roll of Honour, including some details of each of these brave individuals who represented our community in WWI. Besides those who are named on the War Memorial it includes young men who had strong connections with Escrick and Deighton and lost their lives during two World Wars and others who served their country but were lucky enough to survive.

This Roll of Honour is not set in stone, but is a work in progress to honour not only those who served in the two world wars but in the numerous conflicts which have arisen since. As research continues and more people become aware, we hope members of our community and beyond will be able to provide valuable information about those who laid down their lives or served and survived for the freedom we enjoy today.



**ROLL OF HONOUR
ESCRICK AND DEIGHTON
WWI (1914-18) FATALITIES**

ERIC ERNEST BENSON (1886-1917) Private, Queen's Own Royal West Kent. Eric was killed in action and is commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West Flanders, Belgium. His parents, Sarah and Israel Benson lost two sons in the war and subscribed to the War Memorial Fund despite Eric's name not being included on the memorial.

HERBERT BENSON (1879-1917) Private, Service No 203726, 2nd/6th Battalion Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Herbert was born and lived in Escrick working as a rural postman. He was killed in action on 27 July 1917 and is named on the War Memorial unlike his younger brother, Eric. Herbert was buried at Favreuil British Cemetery, France. Block I, Row C, Grave 25.

THOMAS CARBERT Machine Gun Corps. (Service No 89671. Thomas was born in Escrick (date not recorded), enlisted in Huddersfield and died on 21 March 1918.

WILLIAM P CLAYDEN (1896-1917) Private, Service No 201512, 2nd/5th Battalion Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. William's parents, Hannah and William lived in Deighton, where William enlisted. He died of his wounds, aged 21, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Whalley, Lancashire and is buried there in the hospital cemetery. He is named on the War Memorial.

JOHN COATES (1896-1918) 2nd Lieutenant, East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry. Son of Thomas and Ann Coates, John was killed in action on 15 August 1918, aged 29 and buried at Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Morbecque, France. John is named on the War Memorial. His widow was Margery Coates of West Field, Fimber, Malton.

JOHN COATES (1895-1918) Lance Corporal, Service No 17496 Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. Son of Henry and Ada Coates and prior to enlisting John worked as a Groom at Mount Pleasant Farm, Escrick. He served in France, Belgium, Turkey and Egypt. John died of his wounds in hospital in Jerusalem, Palestine on 9 May 1918, aged 23. He is remembered on the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry War Memorial, Gloucester. John's brother William was also killed in the Great War and two other brothers and his sister served and survived.

FRANCIS DISTANCE (1898-1916) Ordinary Seaman, Royal Navy. Francis joined the Royal Navy in 1914 on HMS Impregnable and joined HMS Defence in May 1915 rising to the rank of Ordinary Seaman. He had attended Escrick School which he visited in May 1916. Escrick School logbook for 7 June 1916 records: "*Have received the sad news today that an old scholar Francis Distance serving on HMS Defence went down with his ship during the Naval Battle of Jutland on May 31. He was a very promising boy, loved by both Teachers and Schoolmates.*" Francis is not named on the Escrick memorial but is remembered on the Plymouth War Memorial.

WILLIAM ARTHUR DERRICK ELEY (1897-1917) 2nd Lieutenant, 5th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (attached to 1st Battalion). Derrick (as he was known) was killed in action on 17 February 1917, aged 19. He was the only son of Helen and Lt Col William G Eley, member of the WMC and contributed to the War Memorial Fund. Derrick is named on the War Memorial and buried at Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France.

CHARLES ALAN CLARKE FULLERTON (1895-1918) 2nd Lieutenant, 72nd Training Squadron, Royal Air Force. Charles died in a flying accident at Beverley on 29 May 1918 and is buried in the family grave plot at St Leonard's Old Churchyard, Thrybergh, Rotherham. He is named on the War Memorial.

LEONARD HESCOCK (1896–1918) Private, Service Number 37377, 10th Battalion, Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Prior to enlisting Leonard was a Gardener for Escrick Estate. His parents were Mary and Joseph Hescock and his brother, John served and survived WWI. The family contributed to the WMF. Leonard died of his wounds on 1 April 1918 and is buried in Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France and is named on the War Memorial.

RAYMOND HEWISON (1897-1918) Private, Service Number 75458, Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Raymond, son of Jane and Joseph Hewison was born in Escrick and worked in the stables at Escrick Estate until he enlisted in 1918. He was killed in action the same year in France on 8 October. Raymond is named on the War Memorial and buried at Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension.

JAMES EDWARD KENT James was born in Escrick (date not recorded) and enlisted in Blackburn with the Royal North Lancashire Regiment, Service No 203188. He was killed in action on 25 October 1917.

CHARLES ALVARA LOFTHOUSE (1875-1917) Corporal, Service No 18214, East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry. Charles was born to parents Mary and William Lofthouse and a Forester on the Wenlock Estate prior to enlisting in Escrick. Charles died at sea on 15 April 1917 age 42 following the sinking, by torpedo, of HMT Arcadian in the Aegean Sea en route from Salonika to Egypt. Charles is named on the War Memorial and commemorated on the Mikra Memorial, Greece.

GEORGE PORTEOUS Sergeant, Service No 23712, Yorkshire Hussars. George was born in Escrick and enlisted in Rawalpindi, India. He died in September 1915.

JOHN ARTHUR RAPER (1879-1916) Lance-Sergeant, Service No 9323, Northumberland Fusiliers. John was born in Escrick, enlisted as a regular soldier in 1899 and was killed in action in France on 23 July 1916 aged 38. He has no known grave but is named on the War Memorial and commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. John was the son of Walter and Elizabeth Raper of The Brick and Tile Yard, Escrick. The family subscribed to the War Memorial Fund.

JOSEPH WALTER RAPER (1880-1917) Gunner, Service No 174472, Royal Field Artillery ('D' Battery 64th Brigade RFA). Joseph (brother of John) was born in Escrick and worked at Escrick Brickyard prior to enlisting. He was killed in action in France on 5 September 1917. Joseph is named on the War Memorial and buried at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No 3, Ypres, Belgium.

GEORGE ROBINSON Private, Service No 25277, Royal Defence Corps. George was born in Escrick, enlisted in Selby and died on 21 February 1917.

ALBERT EDWARD RUFFLES Corporal, Service No 20548 Royal Hussars. Albert was born in Escrick, enlisted in Beverley and died in the Great War on 21 March 1918.

JOHN SARGINSON (1889-1916) Corporal, Service No 11505 Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regiment). John was born in Middleham, and prior to enlisting worked as a Gardener. He was killed in action in France on 4 July 1916, aged 27 and has no known grave. John is named on the War Memorial, also at Middleham and commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France. John was the son of Mr and Mrs L Sarginson of Nelson, Lancashire.

ROBERT HUTTON TOSE Private, Service No 21833, East Yorkshire Regiment. He was born in Escrick. Unlike his brother John, who served and survived WWI, Robert died on 3 January 1918.

CHARLES HUGH TEMPEST WHITEHEAD (1880-1915)

Major, 56th Punjabi Rifles (formerly served with Highland Light Infantry) Indian Frontier Regiment. Charles was killed in action at the Battle of Loos on the Western Front, France on 25 September 1915, aged 34. Charles has no known grave but is named on the War Memorial and commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Charles had also served in South Africa (1901-2) and received the Queen's medal with three clasps. Son of Mary Jane and the late George Whitehead of Deighton Grove, Crockey Hill. Mrs Whitehead was a member of the WMC and subscribed to the WMF. Five of Charles' brothers served and survived the Great War (see list of WWI Veterans).



ROLL OF HONOUR ESCRICK AND DEIGHTON WORLD WAR II (1939-45) FATALITIES

RICHARD CHAMBERS (1914-1943) Service No 942459, No 57 Squadron, Bomber Command, Royal Air Force. His parents were Florence and William Chambers of Escrick. William was head gamekeeper at Escrick Estate and prior to enlisting Richard worked as a chauffeur. At the time of his death on 22 October 1943 William was a Sergeant Flight Engineer, aged 29. He is buried in Hanover War Cemetery, grave 3.B.2.

HERBERT F L COOPER (date of birth unknown – died 18.12.1942). He served with the 1st /5th West Yorkshire Regiment. The Regiment was in India at the time of his death. Herbert is buried in York Cemetery in Section D. Grave 37.11984.

EDGAR UMPLEBY (1918-1945) Service No 646177, Royal Air Force. His parents were Ernest and Maud Umpleby of Grange Farm Cottage, Escrick Park Estate. At the time of his death, aged 27 Edgar was a Leading Airman. He was captured on the Island of Java at Garoet and died at Sandakan, Borneo on 20 March 1945. Edgar is named on the War Memorial and is remembered on the Singapore Memorial, Singapore, Column 453.

(The story of Sandakan and the death marches is one of the most tragic of WWII. Of the 2434 prisoners incarcerated at Sandakan, 1787 were Australian, the remaining 641 were British. The six Australians who escaped were the only survivors.) It is not known if Edgar died in the camp or on the march. May he rest in peace.

JOHN COATES SMITH (1921-1944) Service No 645575, Warrant Office, Royal Air Force. Son of Hannah (née Colley) and Henry Thompson Smith. In 1941 John's plane was shot down over the Libyan desert and he was not found until a month later. He went on to serve on bombing raids over Germany and survived another incident over the English Channel when he was rescued by the Royal Navy. On 4 May 1944 John's plane was shot down over France. There were no survivors. He is buried at Villiers-Le-Chateau, Marne, France and remembered on the War Memorial at Gate Helmsley.



Escrick Bus Shelter was erected by the inhabitants of the Parish as a memorial to those who served their country during the war 1939-1945



ROLL OF HONOUR ESCRICK AND DEIGHTON WWI (1914-18) VETERANS

DAVID ACHESON (1879-1931) Private, Service No 37064, Army Service Corps. David survived the war and served from 1914 to 1920. The 1911 Census indicates he worked for the Eley family of Escrick as a Domestic Coachman. Records indicate he subscribed to the Escrick and Deighton WMF.

CLARENCE NORMAN BEARUP (1896-1964) Temp Captain, 3rd Manchester Regiment. Clarence was born or lived in Escrick.

ERIC DONALD BEARUP (1898-1938) Gunner, Royal Marine Artillery and brother of Clarence. Their father was Station Master and subscribed to the WMF.

ALBANY BECKETT (1880-1919) Private, 8th London Regiment Labour Corps. Albany survived the war but died shortly after and is buried in Escrick. His brother Francis subscribed to the War Memorial Fund.

ALBERT LESLIE BUTTERWORTH (1900-1956) Airman, Royal Air Force. Albert survived the Great War. His father was headmaster of Escrick village school, a member of the WMC and subscribed to the WMF.

MARK (DICK) COULSON Private, Army Ordnance Corps. Mark was an army pensioner who re-enlisted and survived the war. He subscribed to the WMF.

JOHN WILLIAM COUPLAND (1882-1946) Private, Service No 127604, Royal Garrison Artillery. John survived WWI and worked as a Gardener in Escrick and subscribed to the WMF. John is buried in Escrick churchyard.

FREDERICK DISTANCE (1900-1982) Frederick joined the Royal Navy in 1916 following his older brother, Francis who went down with his ship in 1916. Frederick served on HMS Ganges. He survived WWI and remained in the Navy rising to Able Seaman in August 1925.

ALBERT ERNEST ELLAR (1879-1966) Private, Army Service Corps. Albert's parents, Robert and Leonora had ten children, eight sons and two daughters. Six of their sons served in WWI and survived (see below). The Ellar family contributed to the WMF.

ARTHUR HILL ELLAR (1892-1972) Private, Kings Royal Rifle Corps.

BENJAMIN ELLAR (1881-1939) Corporal, Royal Garrison Artillery. He was awarded the British and Victory medals.

RAYMOND ELLAR (1894-1977) Corporal, Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Raymond first served in the Balkans. In 1915 he was reported missing and his papers indicate he was a prisoner of war with the rank of Lance Sergeant, in hospital at Righa, Turkey where he remained until December 1918, Raymond received the Silver War Badge and the Victory, British and Star medals.

ROBERT ELLAR Private, Army Service Corps. Robert was just 20 when he enlisted in 1914 and he received the 1915 Star medal.

TOM HODGSON ELLAR Private, Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Tom received the British and Victory medals.

JOHN HESCOCK Private, Service No TR/8/71682, Royal Army Medical Corps. John survived WWI unlike his brother Leonard. His father Joseph and the family contributed to the WMF.

HERBERT KERRISON (1893-1951) Private, Service No 62950, Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Herbert survived WWI and subscribed to the WMF.

ROBERT LEWIN KILLIP Lieutenant, Royal Field Artillery. Robert survived WWI and the family subscribed to the WMF.

SYDNEY RAPER Private, Service No 10417, Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. Sydney survived WWI and his family subscribed to the WMF.

REGINALD CHARLES ROCHESTER (1894-1961) Pioneer, Royal Engineers. Reginald served from 1914 to 1920, firstly in France. He was awarded the Victory, British and 1915 Star medals.

ROBERT ROCHESTER (1881-1951) Private, Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. War Office records indicate Robert enlisted prior to WWI on 17 February 1900. Robert was the eldest son of Samuel and Clara Rochester. Three brothers, Robert, Spencer and Reginald all served and survived WWI and the family subscribed to the WMF.

SPENCER ROCHESTER (1882-1957) Corporal, Service No 69615, Royal Engineers. Prior to enlisting Spencer worked as a joiner for Escrick Estate and was married to Rose Skilbeck. Spencer began his service in Egypt and was awarded the Victory, British and 1915 Star medals. He was a member of the WMC and subscribed to the WMF.

MATTHEW SWALLOW Matthew was born in 1897 and enlisted as a Private, Service No 201957, in the Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment and survived WWI. His father Walter Swallow was Lodge Keeper at Escrick and subscribed to the WMF.

MARK TAYLOR Mark was born in 1884 and enlisted on 11 December 1915 as a Private, Service No 289679, with the Royal Engineers. He survived the Great War and his family subscribed to the WMF.

JOHN RICHARD TOSE (1881-1952) Warrant Officer, Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment. John survived, unlike his brother Robert, and received a DCM for his services.

EDWARD VERITY served with the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Edward was injured in France in the early stages of WWI and was sent to convalesce in Escrick. There he met and married Louisa Goodall. Edward settled in Escrick and ran a cycle shop and taxi business.

SIDNEY ARTHUR WEBSDALE (1897-1973) Sidney enlisted on 20 November 1915, Service No 167859, as a Private with the Royal Engineers. He survived WWI and his family subscribed to the WMF.

THE WHITEHEAD BROTHERS Information on the military career of five of Charles Tempest Whitehead's brothers is included in the Marquis de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour: "*Five of his brothers are (1918) on service: **Capt. L. D. Whitehead** (twice wounded in France); **Capt. A. V. Whitehead** (three times wounded in France), attached East Surreys; **2nd Lieut. A. O. Whitehead** (wounded in France), **Grenadier Guards**; **Capt. F. A. Whitehead, R.N.**, and **Capt. E. T. Whitehead, Intelligence Dept., War Office.***"

GEORGE HERBERT YOUNG AB Seaman, Royal Navy. George survived WWI and his family subscribed to the WMF.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank everyone who has helped with this project, with a special mention to Joan Reid (née Sarginson), John Guest and Alan Henshall for their valuable research and support.



If you have any information you would like to share with us, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact:

Caroline at escrickchurch@gmail.com or

Christine at escrickpcc@gmail.com