



Approx. time

1½ hours +

# 1<sup>ST</sup> WORLD WAR MILITARY TRAIL

One of a series of trails to enhance your enjoyment of the Cemetery

Best enjoyed: ANYTIME

Friends of York Cemetery



Registered Charity  
No. 701091

## INTRODUCTION

York has long been a proud garrison town and its military past is well illustrated throughout York Cemetery. A Cavalry Barracks was established in the nearby Fulford area in 1795 followed by a military hospital in 1854 and a military prison in 1884.

The practice of non-repatriation of the dead was established during the First World War which meant that Commonwealth servicemen and women who died on active service abroad were buried abroad.

The majority of those buried in the UK are, therefore, the men and women who died at home of diseases; in local garrisons; in military hospitals; training accidents or air raids. Some were killed in action in the air or at sea in coastal waters, with their bodies washed ashore.

Of York Cemetery's 151 WW1 Monuments, 44 service personnel are commemorated solely by private memorials but the majority, 107, have standard headstones provided by the Commonwealth (before 1964 Imperial) War Graves Commission (CWGC). A few of these standard headstones have been added later, in addition to the original private memorials, where the inscriptions are no longer fully legible. The most recent was installed in March 2009.

138 WW1 Army, 9 Navy and 4 RAF personnel are memorialised in the Cemetery.

This Trail relates to the First World War conflict and mentions only a few of those buried here. However, everyone buried in York Cemetery has a story to tell.

## THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The First World War involved the Central Powers - Germany, Austria, Hungary and Turkey, and the Allies - France, Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan and from 1917, the US.

It became a war of attrition fought from lines of opposing trenches, and was immensely costly in terms of casualties. The many innovations of the war included air-war with Zeppelin airships, reconnaissance and fighter aircraft; the use of tanks,

poison gas and submarines. Germany used submarines extensively to isolate Britain from supply sources, this policy led to the sinking of neutral shipping and the loss of civilian lives. This loss motivated the US to join the war.

Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated on the 9th November 1918 and the armistice was signed at Rethondes, France, two days later.

## THE TRAIL

**!! FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY PLEASE KEEP TO THE PATHS AT ALL TIMES !!**

At the Cemetery Entrance turn right to pass the Gatehouse and brick buildings and continue ahead to the **white Cross of Sacrifice** visible in the distance

### 1. The Cross of Sacrifice



In 1919, the Imperial War Graves Commission asked the Architect, Sir Reginald Theodore Blomfield to design Crosses of sacrifice which could be erected at cemeteries in England. It was agreed to erect his Type A cross in York Cemetery, one of some 40 chosen for the privilege.

A similar Cross was erected in Fulford cemetery. However, the Cross in York Cemetery, at 20ft high, is five feet higher than that in Fulford Cemetery, reflecting the greater number of dead buried in York Cemetery. It was constructed of Stancliffe sandstone from Darley Dale in Derbyshire with two bronze swords fixed in the stem.

The base was inscribed:-

*"To the Glory of God and the honoured memory of those sailors and soldiers who gave their lives for the country in the Great War, 1914-1918, and who lie buried in this cemetery"*

It was unveiled on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1925 by Lt General Sir Charles Harington, GOC Northern Command, at a ceremony attended by trustees of the cemetery company and representatives of the Yorkshire regiments and the Imperial War Grave Commission with music provided by the band of the Border Regiment.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 1940 York Cemetery was the recipient of the first German bomb dropped in York. The high explosive device, which fell close to the Cross, left a 12ft wide and 6ft deep crater.

*Continued overleaf*

### *The Cross of Sacrifice continued*

Much superficial damage was caused to nearby houses and gravestones and the Cross of Sacrifice was badly shaken. The pedestal block was moved ¼ inch from its setting, the shaft was fractured three feet up from the pedestal and much damage was done to the stonework by flying shrapnel.

In 1949 the CWGC provided a new cross in Portland stone, an exact replica of the original, to be a central monument to the servicemen of both world wars. The replacement does not have a legend on its base as it was not the general policy of the Commission to put inscriptions on Second World War crosses.

When the original Cross was first unveiled in 1925, Lt Gen. Sir Charles Harington said that those who forget the sacrifice of the men buried in York Cemetery could never call themselves Englishmen and Yorkshiremen.

We hope that this trail will help keep this valuable, if tragic, part of our history alive.

Take the wide grass track at the rear of the Cross. Turn left at the "T" junction and almost immediately turn right onto a grass track. Pass the **"Angel" monuments.**

**Pause to reflect that 25 WW1 graves are located in this area.**

Pass the fir tree on your left and some 15 yards further on your left is the **Merriman Monument.**

### **2. William Merriman - Died 1917, Aged 38**



**Inscription** on the front of the plinth  
*In loving Memory of  
William (Willie)  
Dearly beloved son of  
George and Fanny Merriman  
of this City  
Who died July 7<sup>th</sup> 1917  
aged 28 years  
"At Rest"*

The cause of death of William Merriman, a 38 year old Private in the West Yorkshire Regiment and eldest son of George Merriman, a prominent pawnbroker in the city, was given as a gunshot wound.

The truth, however, is even more tragic. William was at home from the Front on hospital leave in July 1917. He was severely depressed and bitterly regretted that his arm injury had not been serious enough to ensure his discharge from the army. The night before he was due to return to France, he entered a warehouse behind the family's shop in Petergate. Here he climbed onto a ladder with a rope around his neck and then shot himself in the head with a revolver. He hung suspended from a beam and was found the next morning by one of the shop assistants.

Three rows further along this path and set back from the path edge is the **Avison Monument**

### **3. George and Sarah Avison – Died 1916 Aged 70 & 69 Respectively**



**Inscription**  
*George Avison  
and Sarah Ann his wife  
Who were killed by a bomb  
Dropped from enemy aircraft  
2nd May 1916  
Aged 70 and 69 respectively  
Jesus called them unto himself*

Zeppelin raids were authorised by the Kaiser in February 1915 but York did not experience this terror from the sky until 2 May 1916 when bombs were dropped throughout the City.

The distinctive cigar shaped shadow of a German airship was spotted over the city at about 9.30pm. It set off in the direction of Nunthorpe Avenue, heading north east across the city towards Peasholme Green and St Saviour's Place.

Emily Beatrice Chapman (Aged 28 and buried elsewhere in this Cemetery) of 6 Nunthorpe Avenue, whose curiosity compelled her to go outside to witness the drama, was instantly killed by a piece of shrapnel which sliced into her shoulder.

The Zeppelin next dropped its bombs on Upper Price Street, completely destroying the upper floors of number 13. Pensioners George Avison, a retired North Eastern Railway Carriage painter, and his wife Sarah who were asleep were killed instantly.

For the next ten minutes it dropped 18 bombs throughout the City, destroying houses, killing nine people and injuring 38 more.

Other victims of the raid buried in York Cemetery are:-

Susan Waudby (Aged 65), who was killed when shrapnel smashed through the window of her boarding house at 8 St Saviour's Place.

Benjamin Sharpe, Sergeant Edward Gordon Beckett and William Chappelow - See 9 below.

Two further Zeppelin raids on York occurred, on 25 September and 27 November 1916, but there were no more deaths.

In all 30 air raid warnings were given in York using a silent warning system – the gas pressure was lowered and raised three times and the electricity was similarly switched off and on and then extinguished altogether.

Due to wartime censorship full details of the Zeppelin raids were not released until 2nd May 1956 - exactly 40 years after the attack.

Go ahead to the footpath crossing and turn right onto a tarmac path. Go to the far end of the hedged Herb Garden on your left. The **Godman Monument** is the flat slab at the path edge on your right

**4. Naval Officer, Lt Commander Thomas Godman  
DSC, Croix de Guerre,  
Order of St Anne of Russia Died 1964, Aged 74**



**Inscription**

*Sacred to the Memory  
of Lt Commander  
Thomas Godman R. N. R. DESC  
Croix De Guerre  
Order of St Anne of Russia  
Born in Hull on the 10th June 1889  
Endowed with a happy disposition  
a Brilliant mind and valiant spirit  
He strove to serve his fellow men  
Inspiring affection and respect  
He Died in Haxby York  
on the 4th December 1964  
Erected by his devoted wife  
Dorothy Margaret*

In an outstanding career spanning both wars, Thomas excelled in many spheres. Born in Hull on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1889, he later attended Trinity House School, where he specialised in navigation, before spending two years voyaging around the world as a cadet.

He obtained his Master's ticket for steamships in 1912 and his pilot's flying licence, No 77, in 1916. He joined the Royal Navy in 1913 and served extensively in submarines. On one occasion he brought his submarine back to Harwich with most of the crew dead, having spent many hours crippled on the seabed. For this feat he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. His Order of St Anne was awarded personally by the Czar of Russia after Godman's submarine had rescued a party of shipwrecked Russian fishermen during the First World War.

He transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service seeing action in France, where he was shot down and severely injured. He was rescued by a Canadian soldier who was decorated for his bravery. Godman's arm was badly hurt, leading to his retirement from the armed forces in 1919 aged 30.

Between the wars he spent much time in both Russia and Germany, involved in the import/export trade but supplying information to our intelligence services. Shortly before war was declared in 1939 he escaped from Templehof Airport, Berlin, with the Gestapo hot on his heels. He had provided much valuable target information to the authorities in Britain. In 1944 he served as a civilian with the United States Welfare Section, helping to organise the despatch of GI brides.

Return to the footpath crossing and turn right onto a grass path. Ahead to the second junction.

**Pause to reflect that 44 WW1 graves are located in this area.**

Turn left at this junction and go to the large cross on your left. Behind this monument is the **Atkinson Monument.**

**5. John William Atkinson – Died 1916, Aged 35**



**Inscription**

*12838 Private  
J.W. Atkinson  
West Yorkshire Regiment  
27<sup>th</sup> October 1916*

John William Atkinson was a Coal Porter at Foss Islands Station where his father was the Station Master. He served in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own).

He was one of the many wounded servicemen who were returned to hospitals in their home towns only to succumb to their wounds.

His Monument is one of the uniform headstones provided by the CWGC with its rounded top. Headstones are differentiated only by their inscriptions: the national emblem or regimental badge, rank, name, unit, date of death and age of each casualty is inscribed above an appropriate religious symbol and a line or two of a personal dedication chosen by relatives.

In York Cemetery the religious symbol on all CWGC gravestones is the cross – in some cases a broad cross surmounted by the regimental badge, on others there is a slender cross below the regimental badge and inscription.

Retrace your steps to the junction, turn left toward the brick perimeter wall. The white cross on the right is the **Richardson Monument**

**6. Linden Richardson – Died 1918, Aged 19**

**Inscription**

*In Proud And  
Honoured Memory of  
Sergeant Pilot Linden Richardson  
Royal Air Force  
The Beloved Son of  
George and Edith A. Richardson  
Who was killed whilst flying  
at Beverley Yorks 24 April 1918  
"O God of Battles; Steel Thy Soldier's Hearts"*



Sergeant Pilot Linden Richardson RAF was killed in a flying accident at Beverley aerodrome on 24th April 1918 when, according to reports, his "machine suddenly crashed to the ground". He was just 19 years old.

He was a mechanic who gained the opportunity to fly quite late in the war. He was based at the School of Aerial Gunnery, Loch Doon, Ayr, travelling several times to Reading before being assigned to Doncaster. His final transfer was to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Training Squadron at Beverley.

*Continued overleaf*

*Linden Richardson continued*

At that time he had just transferred from the Royal Flying Corps to the Royal Air Force, formed on the 1st of April that year, and was probably based at Beverley Racecourse.

His diary shows that he collected items from aircraft that he crashed. On one day he flew to Tadcaster from Beverley and crashed his Camel plane on Hall's Farm. He then flew back in a Camel 12 and managed to turn it on its back on landing. He did though retrieve the propeller which, it is claimed, he turned into a barometer.

He is the only non-officer to appear on the plaque in Bishop Burton church as most pilots came from the rank of officers.

Go to the brick wall, turn left onto a grass path. At the end of the wall turn right onto a concrete path leading to the grassed area known as the **Soldier's Lawn**

**Pause to reflect that there are 55 WW1 graves in this area**

Turn left at the bench. Shortly after the yew trees on your right and next to a domed topped headstone is the **Hartley Monument**

#### **7. Lawrence Hartley - Died 1919, Aged 26**



#### **Inscription**

23358 Lance Cpl  
L. Hartley  
Yorkshire Regiment  
12<sup>th</sup> November 1919 aged 26  
Ever Remembered

Lawrence Hartley was a Lance Corporal in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment.

He was one of many who never recovered from injuries received at the front during the First World War.

He received a gunshot wound to his right knee and other injuries in September 1917 and was sent home. He died as a result of gas poisoning on the 12th October 1919, aged 26, almost a year after the war had ended.

He was entitled to an official headstone as the qualifying period for war graves did not end until 31 August 1921.

Continue on the grass path and at the first junction 'dog-leg' left ahead.

At second junction again 'dog-leg' left ahead. Pass a tree and 3 WW1 monuments on your left to reach the **Munition Workers Monument**.



#### **Inscription**

Munition Workers  
Killed by Explosion  
Died 5.12.1916  
Mary Elizabeth Wortley  
aged 38 years  
Elizabeth West  
aged 53 years  
Mary Carter aged 23 years  
Lillian Eva Ellis  
aged 19 years

Barnbow, between Crossgates and Garforth, was the site of the first National Shell Filling Factory which opened in 1914. Most of the workers for this sprawling factory set in the countryside were women, drawn from a twenty mile radius.

The girls handling the explosives were often taking home £10 and £12 a week which was good money in those days. However, the working conditions were barely tolerable because of the necessary restrictions. They worked 8 hours a day, six days a week, and twelve on Sunday, with one Sunday off every three weeks.

At 10.15 pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1916, several hundred girls and women had just started their night shift filling, fusing, finishing and packing 4.5in shells. Room 42 was mainly concerned with filling and between 150 and 170 girls worked there. Shells were brought to the room already loaded with high explosive and the girls were required to insert the fuse and screw down the cap.

At about 10.27pm a violent explosion occurred killing 35 women and injuring many more. In many cases, identification was only possible by the identity discs worn by the workers.

Due to the censorship of the time, no account of the accident was made public. Although press notices stated "killed by accident". It was not until six years after the war that the public were told the facts for the first time.

**Mary Elizabeth Wortley** of 18 Beaconsfield Street, Haxby Road was the wife of a Saw Mill Labourer and a mother of ten children. The children's ages ranged from 22 to 4 years, seven of whom were under the age of 14 years.

**Elizabeth West** of 40 Trinity Lane, Micklegate was the wife of a chimney sweep and the mother of three children.

**Mary Elizabeth Carter** of 3 Fetter Lane, Micklegate was the wife of Lance Corporal Walter Carter and the mother of one child, aged 2 years.

**Lilian Eva Ellis** of 8 Jubilee Terrace, Leeman Road was the eldest of five children. She was a native of Thirsk, her family only having resided in York for about a year.

*Continued overleaf*

#### **8. Barnbow Munition Workers – Died 1916**

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### **Barnbow Munition Workers continued**

Two other victims of the explosion are buried elsewhere in the Cemetery:-

Kathleen Eastment, aged 14 years, of 11 Diamond Street, The Groves.

Elizabeth Mason, aged 41 years, of 74 Rose Street, Haxby Road, mother of five children under the age of 16 years.

Return to the tree. On your right is the **Becket Monument**

### **9. Benjamin Sharpe – Died 1916, Aged 19 Sgt. Edward Gordon Beckett Died 1916, Aged 29 William Chappelow – Died 1916, Aged 49**

A further three men killed in the Zeppelin Raid of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1916 and described above are buried in this public grave. They were killed by a bomb that fell in St Saviour's Place, Aldwark:-

**Benjamin Sharpe** – aged 19 who was married to Lucy (nee Lacy), was walking home from work at Leatham's Mill, Hungate to his home in the Layerthorpe area when he was hit by shrapnel. According to one account he was walking home with his work colleague Ernest Coultish, a bargeman, who is buried in Selby

*Kerb style memorial with inscription from Lily to her "Dear Husband"*

**Sergeant Edward Gordon Beckett** – aged 29 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, Ammunition Col, Royal Field Artillery was home on leave at 4 St John's Place. He, and Private Leslie Hinson who is buried in his home town of Haltemprice, was another of those who deliberately went outside to watch the Zeppelins pass over and was killed by shrapnel.



#### **Inscription**

*In Loving Memory of  
Edward Gordon Beckett  
Sergt Majr RFA  
Who was killed at York  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1916  
Aged 29 Years*

**William Chappelow** – aged 49 had both of his legs blown off as he escorted his wife, Sarah Ann, home to 32 Garden Place, Hungate, after a visit to the cinema. Sarah died in 1955 and is buried elsewhere in the cemetery with a memorial.

*William is not memorialised on this grave but is mentioned on the memorial to his son elsewhere in the cemetery.*

Looking down the sloping footpath, go to the bench at the back of Picnic Lawn on your right. The Ruff Monument is behind the bench

### **10. Anton Ruff - Died 1914, Aged 43 Agust Burkert – Died 1914, Aged 39**



#### **Inscription**

*Anton Georg Ruff  
11th October 1914*

Two prisoners of war, a German and an Austrian, share this public grave with several York citizens.

**Anton Ruff**, a German soldier died on the 11th October 1914 from cancer at the age of 43. It is possible that he was held prisoner to prevent him spying for the enemy.

**Agust Burkert**, an Austrian-born Engineer died three days after Anton from heart failure aged 39. He had been detained because "he was likely to become dangerous" despite having lived peaceably in Selby for many years. At the camp he had felt hot and clammy and had been checked over by the Doctor who could find nothing wrong and was sent on his way. A few hours later he returned to the hospital and died from a massive heart attack.

He was afforded a small funeral service which several of his friends were allowed to attend.

During the first months of the War all non-naturalised British residents were arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned. Initially, the men were imprisoned in York Castle and as more were arrested the accommodation spilled out onto Castle Green where a tented encampment was erected to cope with the increasing number of aliens.

The Exhibition Building accepted hundreds of men who were put up on straw mattresses. Eventually an internment camp was hastily erected along Leeman Road. The Leeman Road camp housed German and Austrian men, both aliens and prisoners, in stilted timber huts.

Return to the path. Go down the slope to the crossing. Fork right and take the curving path with a bank on your left. Turn left up the steps.

**!! TAKE CARE ON THE STEPS !!**

Go ahead for about 50 yards to the white kerb memorial to Mason & Barrell on your left. Close to this grave is the inaccessible **Steigman Monument**.

**!! DO NOT LEAVE THE PATH !!**

## 11. Arthur Steigman/Davis–Died 1916, Aged 26

### **Inscription**

*In Loving Memory of  
John Christian Steigman  
Dearly Beloved Husband & Father  
Born 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1853  
Died 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1902  
"Lead Kindly Light"  
Also Florence Frederica Steigman  
Born May 10<sup>th</sup> 1889  
Died July 9<sup>th</sup> 1889  
Beatrice Blanche Steigman  
Born July 27<sup>th</sup> 1892  
Died Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 1892  
"Safe in the arms of Jesus"  
Also Arthur A Steigman  
Killed in Action in France Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 1916  
Aged 26 years  
Also Harold Edgar Died June 10<sup>th</sup> 1925  
Aged 30 Year  
Also Rosine Catherine Beloved Mother  
Died Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 1929 aged 68*



In the run up to hostilities in August 1914 there was a rising tide of xenophobia and panic over "imagined" foreign spies. The John Bull magazine of the time concluded a vitriolic appeal with "... And now the time has come. No German must be allowed to live in our land". Propaganda like this led to attacks even on British citizens whose names happened to sound German and York was not immune to such prejudice in its attitude.

John Christian Steigman and Rosine Catherina Brand were a young couple from Werttemberg, Germany who married in York in October 1879 and became naturalised British citizens in July 1888. They established a butchers shop in Bridge Street and produced 8 children all with English forenames 2 of whom died in infancy. John Christian died in 1902.

By the start of hostilities the 3 daughters, now in their 30's, were married with English surnames. Due to the xenophobia of the time Rosine and the 3 sons changed their name to Davis and all records after this time refer to them by this name. Arthur enlisted in the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers in London and was killed in action at Ypres. He is memorialised in Belgium as "Davis" but, recognising his birthright, he is remembered in York Cemetery as "Steigman".

Return to, and descend the steps

**!! TAKE CARE ON THE STEPS !!**

Turn left onto the curving grass path with a bank on the left. Stop just before the path crossing. Next to James Wilkie on the right are the Vokins and Almond Monuments

## 12. George Louis Vokins – Died 1915, Aged 42 James Almond – Died 1919, Aged 46

### **Inscription**

*H/28582 Corporal  
G Vokins  
No3 Cavalry Depot  
6<sup>th</sup> February 1915*



Like his father & grandfather before him, **George Louis Vokins** was a serving soldier in the Regular Army. He joined the Grenadier Guards seeing action in the Second South African War between 1892 and 1902.

George was born in 1873 in Kennington, London and was stationed in Aldershot and Burnley. At the 1911 Census, aged 37, he had left the Army and was working as a Night Inspector at the Royal Station Hotel, York.

However, at the outbreak of WW1 in 1914, at the upper age limit for recruitment he was assigned to the No 3 Cavalry Depot, Reserve Cavalry Regiment. He died on 6 February 1915 of Peritonitis.

### **Inscription**

*12255 Sergeant  
J Almond  
Manchester Regiment  
26<sup>th</sup> November 1919*



**James Almond** the son of an agricultural labourer, was born in 1873 at Kirkby Knowle, near Thirsk taking up the profession of Baker/Confectioner.

By 1891 the family had moved to Burnley. It was around this time that his older sister, Mary, met George Louis Vokins whom she married in 1895.

Possibly this relationship encouraged James to join the Regular Army enlisting in the Depot Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. He served in Egypt, Malta and South Africa and was injured at Spion Kop in 1900. In November 1913 he transferred to the Army Reserve on expiration of his period of Service.

In 1914, at the age of 41, he re-enlisted and served 2 years in India before being invalided back to the UK in 1918. He died at his sister's home in York on 26 November 1919 and is buried here with his brother-in-law.

Cross the concrete path with open views to the right. Go ahead on a grass path to a "T" junction and turn right. Follow the curved path passing the bench on your right and turn right at the Baker Monument. Cross the first path. Cross the concrete path with the Chapel on your left.

Fork right onto a curving grass path. Go ahead to an open area on your left.

Take the indistinct grass path on your left at the Alf Dear Monument. At the John Friend Monument look left to the **Nellie Whitworth Monument**

**!! DO NOT LEAVE THE PATH !!**

### 13. Nellie Whitworth – Died 1918, Aged 26



**Inscription**  
 16451 Worker  
 N. Whitworth  
 Q.M Army Aux Corps  
 21<sup>st</sup> October 1918

Of the 151 First World War personnel buried in York Cemetery Nellie Whitworth is the only woman.

Nellie from Clifton near York, was the eldest daughter of Benson Whitworth, a Railway Passenger Guard She served with the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps attached to the No 2 Infantry Records Office in York.

She died of pneumonia, aged 26, on the 21st October 1918.

Pass the John Friend Monument and go ahead to the Winifred Mary Cahill Monument. Look left. Four rows back is the **J Todd Monument** which mentions his Grandson **B Charles Wilding**

**!! DO NOT LEAVE THE PATH !!**

### 14. Benjamin Charles Wilding Died 1916, Aged 16



**Inscription**  
 J Todd  
 In Loving memory of  
 B Charles Wilding  
 The Dear Son of B & E Wilding  
 Grand-Son of the above J Todd  
 Killed in action January 1916  
 Aged 16½ Years

Benjamin Charles Wilding, the son of a fried fish & wet fish dealer, joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment and was killed in action on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1916. He is buried in Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentiers, France.

This Monument is interesting in that it includes a copy of The Next of Kin Memorial Plaque, or 'Death Penny' as it was known. These were given to the relatives of men and women whose deaths were attributable to the Great War of 1914-1918. The 4½ inch diameter plaque incorporates the figure of Britannia holding a laurel wreath in her left hand and a trident in her right. A lion stands at her feet. The plaque is inscribed "He died for freedom and honour" written around the margin as well as the serviceman's name below the wreath.

The relatives would have also received a commemorative scroll.

Return to the Alf Dear Monument, turn left and follow the curved path to the white Stonemason's building. Turn right. After about 15 yards and at the last headstone on the right, turn right onto an indistinct mown path. Following this meandering path left, right and right again to the white **Fred Wilson Memorial** near some bushes

York Cemetery - WW1 Military Trail (2016)

### 15. Fred Wilson – Died 1915, Aged 29



**Inscription**

(at foot of Monument)  
 Also of Fred, the fifth son of the  
 above who lost his life on the  
 Danish Island of Saltholm  
 on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1915  
 Aged 29 Years

Fred Wilson was born in Norton, Malton on 10 October 1885. His family later moved to York where, before he joined the navy he worked in the central signal box at York Station.

He joined the Navy on 14 September 1908, signing on for 12 years and became a Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

On 19 August 1915, en route to the Baltic, his Submarine E13 ran aground in Danish territorial waters following a Gyro failure. The Danes were neutral but the submarine's captain was given 24 hours to re-float his boat or be interned for the rest of the War.

However, at about 9am, while three Danish torpedo boats were anchored nearby, two German torpedo destroyers appeared. One fired a torpedo at the E13 from a distance of about 300 yards which exploded on hitting the bottom close to her. At the same time the German destroyer fired with her guns setting fire to the submarine.

The order was given to abandon the E13. While the men were in the water they were fired on by machine guns and with shrapnel. One of the Danish ships steamed in between the E13 and the Germans forcing them to cease fire. But 15 of the submarine's complement of 30 men were killed – among them 29 year old Stoker Fred Wilson.

The survivors were interned in Denmark for the rest of the War, but the Danes returned the remains of those who had been killed to England arriving at Hull docks. Stoker Wilson's coffin was brought to York by train where a large crowd assembled as the coffin was carried to York Cemetery.

Of the 151 fallen in York Cemetery, only Fred was brought back home to be buried (the others returned but died of wounds later)

Return to the main path and turn left. At the Cemetery gates head up Chapel Drive toward the Chapel. At the last tree on the right before the Chapel turn right onto the grass path. Turn right at the bench. After 10 yds the **Outhwaite** memorial is on the right.

**16. Arthur William Outhwaite  
Died 1919, Aged 56**

**Inscription**

*In Loving Memory of  
Arthur William Outhwaite  
Who died Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1919 Aged 56*

*Also Hetty*

*Dearly loved wife of the above  
who died Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 1936 Aged 66*

*At Rest*

*Also Jack Aged 29, Edward Aged 26  
And Harry Aged 18, sons of the above  
Who died in action in the Great War  
1914 - 1919*

*"Until the Day Dawns"*

*Also Connie and Ada*

*Who died in infancy*



Arthur William Outhwaite, born in Beverley, was, like his father, a bookseller/stationer. He set up his business in Fossgate before moving to 35 Market Street. He is noted for taking miniature portraits prior to and during the war to create his own series of postcards, "Heroes of York who have Fallen" which remembered men of various streets and areas who fell in the war.

He had ten children, six of whom survived infancy. His daughter Henrietta Mary was a forwarding supervisor with the Royal Army Service Corps. Four sons saw action in WW1. John William James was wounded in France and died of wounds on 29 May 1917. Henry was killed on 8 May 1918 and Edward Hall was killed in Palestine on 11 October 1918. His fourth son, Arthur Calvert survived the war and died in Scarborough at the age of 87.

Ahead down the tarmac path. At the end turn right and return to the Gatehouse

*Please refer overleaf for the  
TRAIL MAP*

We really hope you enjoyed this trail. Why not try another one.

**We really hope you enjoyed this trail and that it inspired you to find out more about York Cemetery. A trail of this kind can give only a flavour of what the Cemetery has to offer, so why not:**

- **Try one of our guided walks**
- **Become a Friend of York Cemetery**
- **Become a Volunteer**

**(Pick up a leaflet or see the website for more details)**

This Trail was originally prepared by David Broadley, Helen Nightingale and Baz Ward in 1993. It was rewritten and updated in 2016 by Dennis Shaw. Layout by Keith Lea.

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Email: [yorkcemeteryvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkcemeteryvolunteers@gmail.com)  
[www.yorkcemetery.org.uk](http://www.yorkcemetery.org.uk)

**Friends of York Cemetery**

**The Cemetery Gatehouse**

Cemetery Road  
York YO10 5AJ



Regd. Charity No.  
701091



Approx. time  
1½ hours+

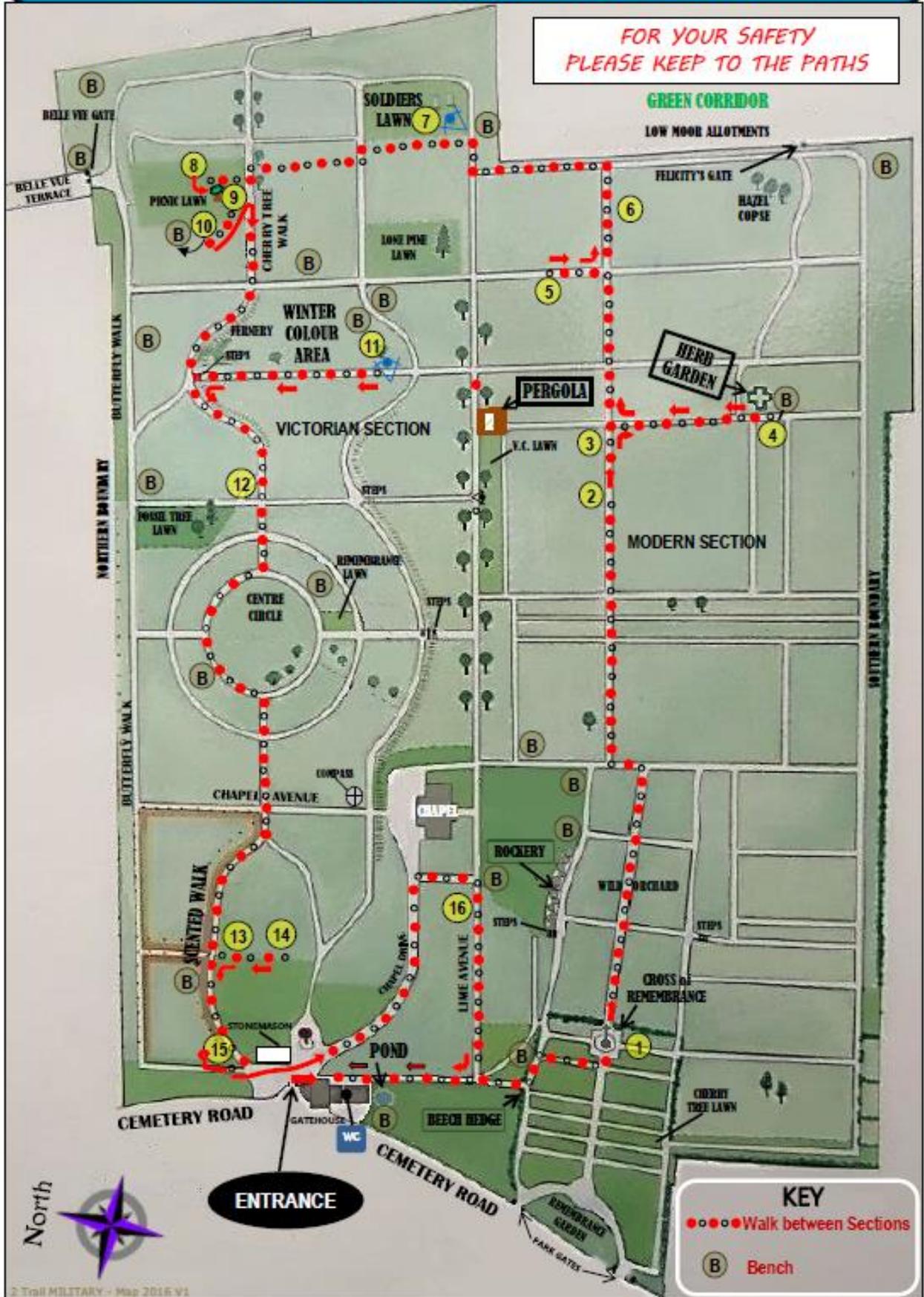
Friends of York Cemetery



# 7<sup>th</sup> WORLD WAR MILITARY TRAIL

Regd. Charity No. 701091

**FOR YOUR SAFETY  
PLEASE KEEP TO THE PATHS**



Trail MILITARY - Map 2016 V1

2018