

**Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington (York)
Local History Society**

COMMEMORATIONS

1914 -1918



THE FULFORD WAR MEMORIAL

PREFACE

To commemorate the Centenary of the Great War, Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Society has researched the lives and war service of the 86 men named on the memorial at St Oswald's Church.

We believe it is important to remember what happened in communities like Fulford, Fishergate and Heslington, and empathise with the enormous grief and distress felt by families and friends, not only by the loss of these men, but also the physical and psychological injuries suffered by a significant proportion of the survivors.

We are publishing short biographies in a series, commencing in 2014 with **the 26 men who lived or had associations in Fulford** at the time of their death. We have defined this area as that between Fulford Cross in the north and Water Fulford to the south, and including Lingcroft Farm and Stillingfleet Grange.

The second edition is for **31 men who lived in the Alma Terrace area**, which incorporates Frances Street, Ambrose Streets, Wenlock Terrace and men registered as living in the Barracks. The third edition has biographies of another **29 men named on the Fulford Memorial from the Fishergate area and further afield**. Finally we will publish an edition that focuses on profiles of the **men from Heslington** and life in the village at that time.

It is now 100 years since the Great War, so it is difficult to gather information on the brief lives of these men. Many no longer have family connections with the area (some had very tenuous links at the time) and some official records were destroyed during the Second World War.

We have not found so far any significant pattern in the regiments they joined or the timing of their enlistment, suggesting there was no 'Fulford or Fishergate Pals' type of grouping or collective joining-up. Most men served in the army on the Western Front, but other services and centres of conflict are also represented in the 86, including a boy of 15 who was killed when his fishing trawler was sunk in the North Sea.

The memorial outside St Oswald's Church in Fulford was designed by Walter Brierley, and we are grateful to the Borthwick Institute for the drawings we have included in this publication. However, we have not been able to locate any records relating to its commissioning, or the criteria used for selecting the men to be commemorated.

Our on-going research into the families of Fulford has been very helpful in presenting social context of the men's lives. We have tried to give full credit to the owners of the images and for those in copyright, to seek permission for use. We apologise for any errors or omissions, and will be very grateful for any additional information to improve the accuracy and scope of future publications.

We are grateful for a grant from the Western Front Association towards our costs for research and publication. Other costs have been met by the Society and generous donations.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks and admiration to the members of our small history society who have worked so tenaciously to research and write these very moving biographies.

Christopher Rainger, Chairman. Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington Local History Society.
November 2015.



*Those whom this book commemorates
were numbered among those who, at the
call of King and Country, left all that
was dear to them, endured hardness,
faced danger, and finally passed out of
sight of men by the path of duty and self-
sacrifice, giving up their own lives that
others might live in freedom.*

*Let those who come after see to it that their
names be not forgotten.*

NAMES ON THE FULFORD WAR MEMORIAL

St Oswald's Churchyard

Joseph Addy
 Arthur (Augustus) Addy
 William Valentine Alderson
 Surtees Atkinson
 Reginald A Bell
 Clarence Leslie Bentley
 Bertie Louis Alph Blunt
 Arthur G Boulton
 John George Britton
 Ernest Britton
 Ernest Bulmer
 Charles Catley
 Alfred Geoffrey Crummack
 Simeon Thomas Daly
 George Fenwick
 William Fiddes
 Robert Fotheringham
 Albert Edward Friend
 Joseph Herbert Garbutt
 James Percy Halliwell
 William Henry Harris
 Ernest Harrison
 James Robert Harrison
 Herbert Hick
 Reginald (Addison)
 HopeCecil Hopkins
 Alexander Hutchinson
 William (George) Ireland
 Ernest Ironmonger
 James William Jameson
 Francis (James) Jones
 Martin William Kenny
 John Robert Kent
 Frederick William Kinsey
 Charles William Kirkman
 Ernest Knaggs

Lawrence Land
 Herbert Lawson
 Thomas H Lawson
 John Charles Linn
 Harry MacDonald
 Thomas MacDonald
 Harry Austin Macpherson



John James Mangan
 Robert Mann
 Charles William Merrill
 Sidney Reuben Metcalfe
 William Mitchell
 Vivian Newby
 Charles Newman

A Herbert Nichols
 D C Oswald Noonan
 William Parker
 George Parsons
 Lucien Pawson
 Frederick William Peach
 George H. Pearson
 Stephen Peet
 Samuel Penrose
 Ernest Pheasey
 John Lincoln S. Pilley
 Frank Lane Poole
 Norman Burton Powell
 Colin Andrew Proudfoot
 Frederick Charles Ralphs
 Robert Richardson
 William J. Roberts
 Edward Roden
 Alfred Roper
 Albert George Sadler
 Sidney C. Shaughnessy
 Bernard Smith
 George G. Smith
 Harry Smith
 Robert Henry Smorfit
 Charles Ernest Sutton
 Reginald Stuart Tarran
 Edmund John Thornton
 Wilfred Trendall
 Reginald Walker
 William Alfred Waud
 Frank Fieldhouse White
 Charles L Williams
 Ernest Wilson
 Fred Wilson
 Percival Willman Wright

*In thankful remembrance of men from Fulford Parish
 who died for God, for King and Country*

Dedication text on the base of the memorial

BACKGROUND TO THE ALMA TERRACE AND BARRACKS AREA OF FISHERGATE, 1914 – 1918

Families living near Fulford Barracks suffered terribly during the First World War. 31 men from this small area were killed. Francis Street alone lost 10 men from just 100 houses, Ambrose Street lost 5 men and Alma Terrace lost 6 men. The appearance of a telegram boy at the top of the street must have been a common sight, and a frightening moment for everyone.

It has not been possible to find out how many men joined up, or the number who were injured. Similarly, it is not known how many conscientious objectors there were, if any, from these streets.

50 of the 86 men named on the Fulford War memorial are from the area between New Walk Terrace and the Barracks. The military families living in these streets and their close relationship with the civilian community was probably a significant factor in the high level of casualties in this small area.

York has been an important centre of military power since the Roman occupation, but Fishergate's association began in 1795, when the *Ancient British Fencibles* moved into the new Cavalry Barracks on Fulford Road.



The Barracks were built in response to the French Revolution, as part of a programme launched by the Prime Minister, William Pitt in 1792.

The Barracks grew, and became increasingly important through the 19th century. For example, between 1859 and 1893, 8 Hussar, 7 Dragoon and 4 Lancer Regiments garrisoned there.

Towards the end of the century, infantry men joined the cavalry regiments and the brick castle-like infantry Barrack Block was built in 1887-80, *pictured around 1910*.

A military hospital was built on the west side of Fulford Road in 1854, and enlarged in 1906 to accommodate 120 patients. Behind the hospital, a small wharf and crane was built on the banks of the river Ouse in 1890, connected to the new Ordnance depot and workshops by a narrow gauge railway, still visible on New Walk.

A horse-drawn tram service between the city and Fulford was introduced in 1880, conveniently connecting the Northern Command Headquarters with the Barracks and mixing military men with local people.

The tram was electrified in 1910, and the wall of the depot can still be seen opposite the Barracks, next to the Aldi car park.



The large numbers of soldiers and cavalry men needed feeding and provisioning, and this provided employment for a significant number of local people. For example, the local property developer, Ambrose Walker, is described as an '*army contractor*' on the deeds of land he sold to an '*army butcher*' to build houses in Grange Street in 1873.

Before its development for housing, much of 18th century Fishergate was nursery gardens, growing food for the city and plants for gardens and large estates. This all changed in the 19th century, as York became a military, industrial and railway centre. Through the later part of the century, Ambrose Walker, Isaac Poad, Baron Wenlock of Escrick Hall and other developers, built villas along Fulford Road and terraced houses on the former nurseries and parkland surrounding Fulford Grange and Fishergate House.

The first development of workers' terraces was close to the Barracks in 1855, when Alma Terrace began to be built on Clarkson's nursery. Other developments followed, including the tall houses in Wenlock Terrace. These were occupied by army officers and similar classes in civilian life. Soldiers lived alongside the workers in York's many industries and trades in the terraced housing which soon filled the area between Fulford Road and the river Ouse.

Fishergate men also socialised with cavalymen and soldiers in the many local pubs, and their families came together in the local churches and mission halls. Children of military families mixed with their neighbours in school and playing in the street.

The City Roller Skating Palace, *right*, was on the site of the modern MECCA bingo hall and was a popular local venue for dances, concerts and Music Hall events, and later became one of the city's first cinemas.



A perennial problem for the running of military units is keeping hundreds of fit young men occupied. As well as training exercises and parades within the Barracks complex, there were military parades through Fishergate marking particular events and the funerals of military men and other civic figures.

The Barracks were open to the public on Sundays and 'Military Sunday' was introduced in 1885, with annual parades from the Barracks to the Minster watched by large crowds from the city and beyond.

In 1906, Hartoft Street, *right*, was lined with men of the 18th Hussars wearing their dress uniforms, for the funeral of Sergeant George Batchelor.



His coffin was drawn to York Cemetery on a gun carriage, accompanied by muffled drums.

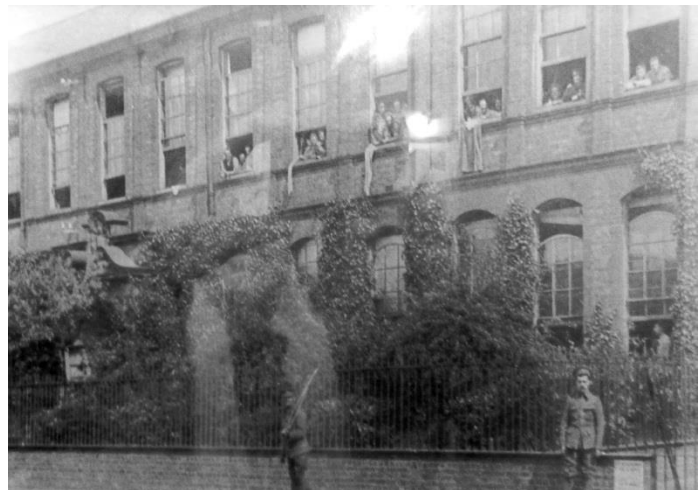
Such events were not unusual, and living in close proximity to military men must have presented a glamorous image of army life, and this was probably a significant factor encouraging young men to join up when war broke out.



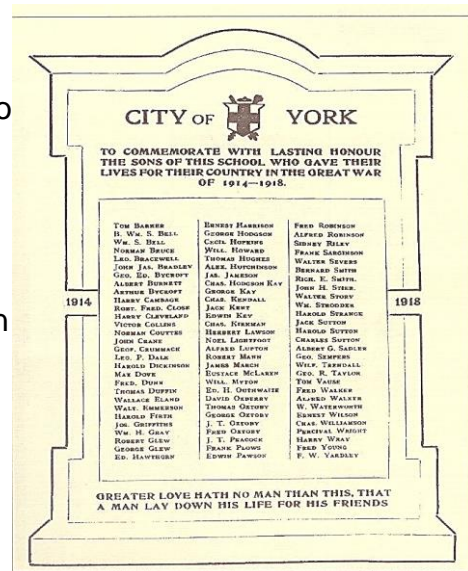
An electric tram stopped outside Oxtoby's in Fishergate by the crowds watching a military parade, c.1911

Fishergate School, *right*, was used as a temporary Barracks to accommodate the flood of new soldiers following the introduction of conscription in 1916.

The local historian, Van Wilson, quotes a bystander who saw a parade of the Scots Greys before they went to France in 1914, saying they were "*cut to ribbons...we never saw 'em anymore*".



It is therefore very likely that Fishergate and Fulford lost even more men than those commemorated by our publications.



Ambrose Street celebrated the end of the war with this Victory Party. The participants seem to be mostly women and children, so perhaps their men-folk are still abroad.

FULFORD 1914 – 1918

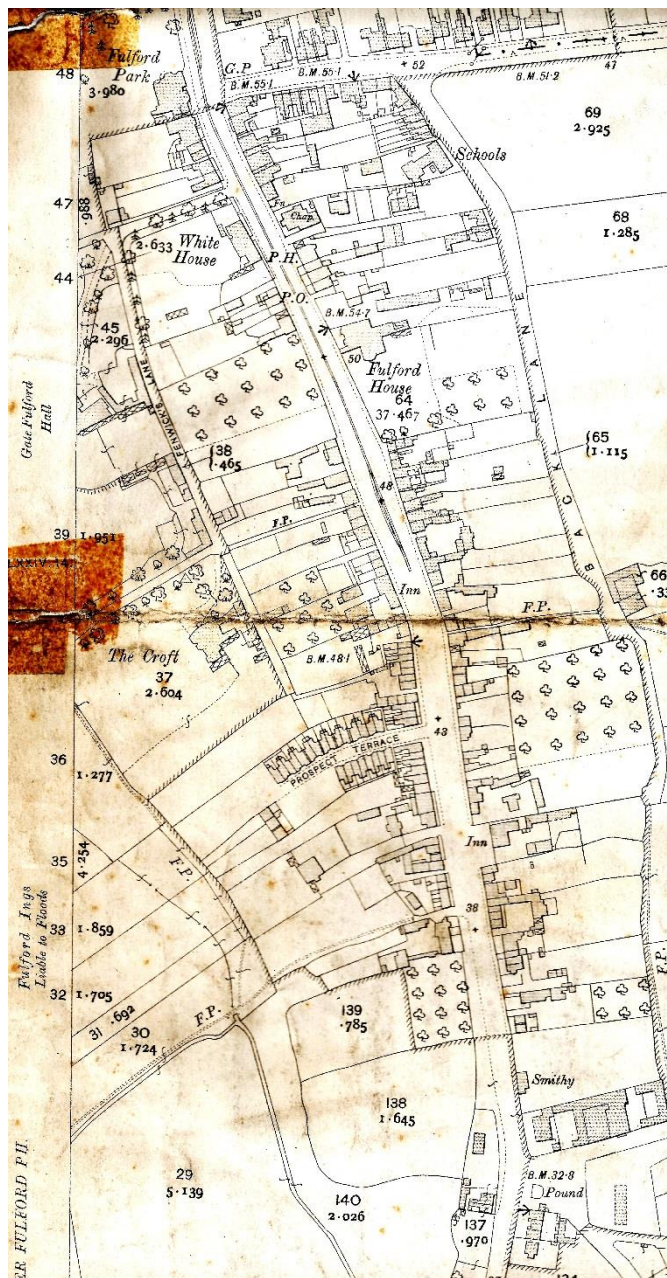
The village of Fulford was established on the banks of the River Ouse, where there was a shallow crossing of Germany Beck, before it joins the Ouse, where, not, it is crossed by the A19. Originally two separate manors of Gate Fulford and Water Fulford, it later became one village, Fulford.

It was then not part of the City of York and very much an agriculturally orientated village with, in 1914, a population of 1408, there being quite a few farms in the area, employing many workers. There was still a Lord of the Manor at Water Fulford Hall with other prominent houses throughout the village. There was a church, chapel, school and three public houses. As well as the usual village trades such as blacksmiths, saddlers, shoe makers, builders, market gardeners and domestic servants, there was a veterinary surgeon, several small shops, a post office, a laundry, a dairy, a police station and a game keeper, all employing the village people.

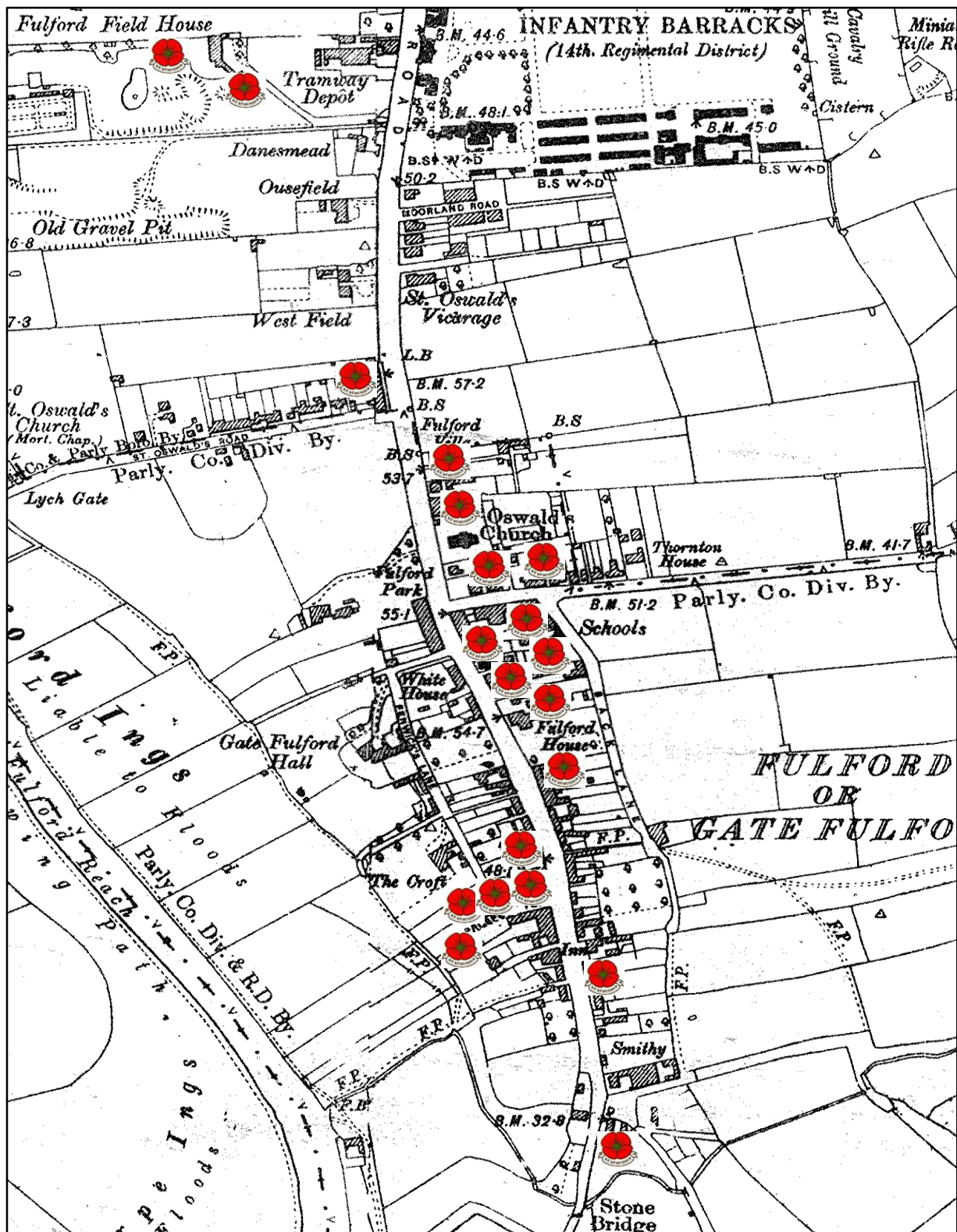
The village always had a close association with the army, the barracks being just down the road. Officers lived in the bigger houses and the other ranks in the cottages and newer terraces being built. Both the wealthy and poorer families sent their men folk to fight for their country, in both the army and the navy. Young and eager they left their village, many never to return and their village mourned them, some families losing two sons.

The memorial outside St. Oswald's Church lists these men and, not only, the men of the village, but all those who lived within the Fulford Ecclesiastical Parish Boundary. We do not know the total of the men who fought, only the ones who didn't return. The fear of the arrival of a letter, brought by the postman, must have hung over the village.

Fulford, now part of the City of York, has a population of about 3,800 and despite being along the very busy A19 has managed to retain much of its village feeling. We, of the Fishergate, Fulford and Heslington Local History Group, are attempting to tell the stories of the brave young men who lived, and worked here.



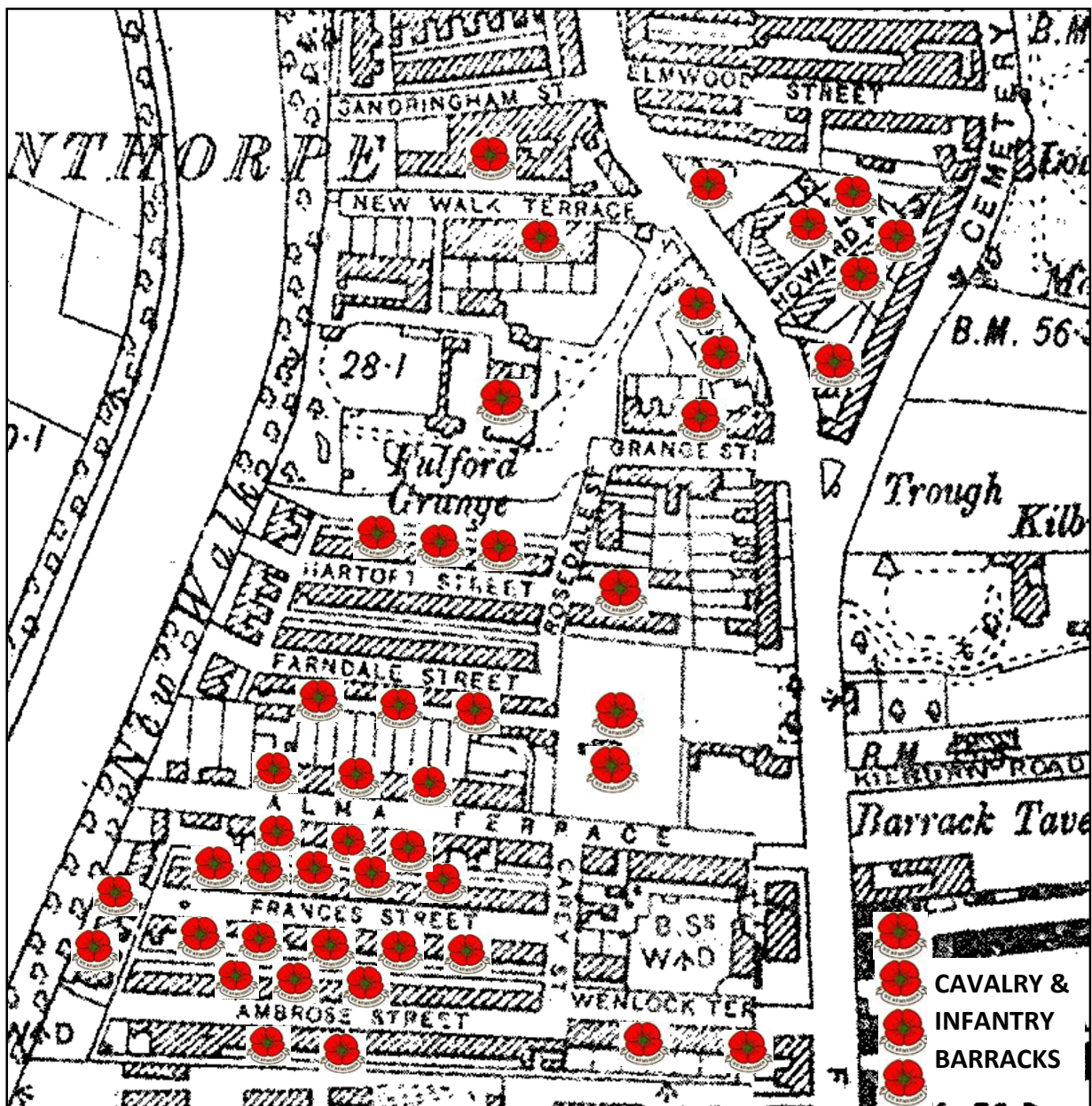
Right: 1907 OS map of Fulford



FULFORD WAR MEMORIAL

(86 men are named)

20 MEN WERE FROM THE FULFORD VILLAGE AREA



1907 Ordnance Survey map



FULFORD WAR MEMORIAL LISTS 86 MEN
50 OF THESE MEN ARE FROM THE ALMA TERRACE,
FULFORD ROAD & BARRACKS AREAS

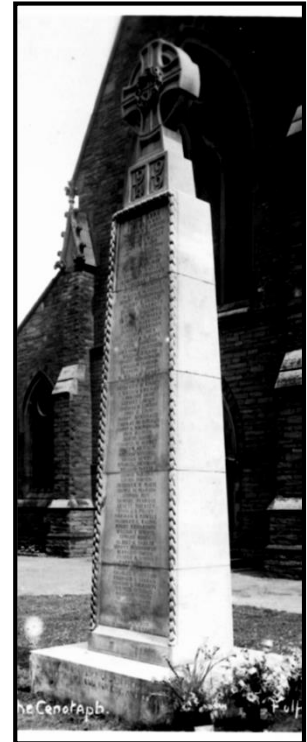
THE FULFORD WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial standing in front of St Oswald's Church, Main Street, Fulford, York, was designed by the York firm of architects, Brierley and Rutherford and erected in 1920. This photograph shows the memorial in 1940.

The Memorial takes the form of an obelisk standing on a stepped plinth and is surmounted by a Celtic-type wheelhead cross. The vertical corners are in ropework and the date is sculpted in an Arts and Crafts style font.

The architect Walter Henry Brierley was born in 1862 and died in 1926. He came to York in 1885 and worked in a firm that had been set up by John Carr around 1750. James Hervey Rutherford became his chief assistant in 1901; and in 1918 they became partners. The practice was very successful and designed most of the city's schools. It still exists as Brierley Groom.

Brierley is known as the 'Yorkshire Lutyens', referring to Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944), who designed the NER War Memorial on Station Rise. Brierley's buildings may often be characterised as an adaptation of traditional architectural style to suit the modern age.

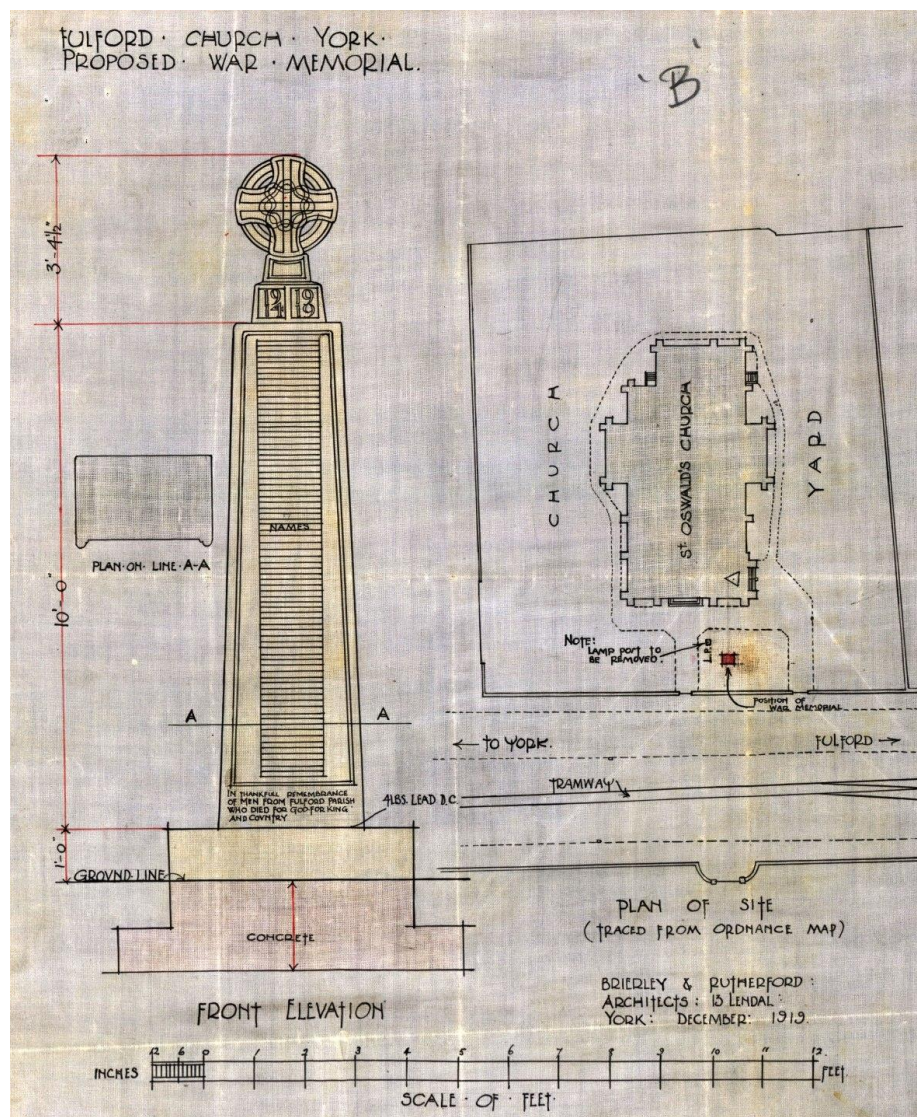


Brierley's drawing for the memorial shows the design and basic dimensions, and its location.

The finer architectural details are not shown and may have been on another drawing or left to his mason.

The space for the men's names fills the front face and the dimension showing the height defines the number of names which can be accommodated.

It is possible that the number of men was not fully known at the time of commissioning, as there are a further 6 names on the north side of the obelisk.



YORKSHIRE GAZETTE (Saturday 23rd October 1920)

FULFORD'S FALLEN CROSS

UNVEILED BY THE ARCHBISHOP

Cosmo Gordon Lang, 1908-1928

A Portland stone cross erected by the parishioners of Fulford, York to the memory of the 79 young men of the parish who fell during the war was unveiled by the Archbishop of York on Sunday.

The cross is a handsome piece of sculpture standing 13 feet high on a spare piece of land between the church and the roadway. The shaft of the memorial is obelisk in pattern with grooved rope moulding on the sides. It is surmounted by a beautifully carved cross bearing the dates 1914 – 1919 on the two panels, and a wreath of thorns symbolic of great suffering and sacrifice. The base is a single stone and bears the inscription: "In thankful remembrance of the men from Fulford Parish who died for God, King, and Country." And contains the names of the 79 men which are inscribed on the panels of the shaft.

WAITING FOR PEACE

The Archbishop preaching at the morning service immediately before the unveiling ceremony said we had waited two years for peace and it had not come yet. We had had hopes that the trial of war with which we had met would leave its mark upon the nation, and from it we might emerge a more high-toned, public spirited people eager to advance together in friendly co-operation towards new and better conditions of social life. Now we had to ask ourselves how far these hopes had been fulfilled.

The truth was that we forgot in those first days of expectancy how long it took to heal the wounds of war. We looked back wistfully to those great days of war when we were united and uplifted by the spirit of self-sacrifices. It was good for us to think of those who returned not from the war.

THE ONLY WAY

Those men knew God's will and God's way of human life, and speak to us today would be the voice that we were sometimes to hear. "Believe us who speak with fuller knowledge, you must seek first the Kingdom of God and righteousness, you must learn that the only way through the perplexities and troubles of your own life and the life of the country is the way of sacrifice for others and for the common good of fellowship for one another and not a utopia and strife, it is Christ's way of trust and love."

This message was timely he said, when we were entering anxious and difficult times through the coal strike. We must remember we should be put through a great and severe testing and we must put away bitterness, recrimination and glamour and help one another to be firm and steadfast in self-denying for the common good.

THE UNVEILING

A large crowd assembled around the memorial for the unveiling and dedication ceremony. The hymn "For all the Saints" and "On the Resurrection Morning" were sung. The Archbishop delivered a short address in which he referred to the inspiration which the sight of the memorial must bring to the parishioners and an impressive service was brought to a close by the sounding of "The Last Post" by the buglers of the West Yorkshire Regiment.