

Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington  
Local History Society

# FISHERGATE SCHOOL



Photograph taken on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1895, eight days after the school opened, with the Headmaster, George Barker on the right and possibly Edward Hope Hawthorne on the left. *Photo courtesy York Explore*

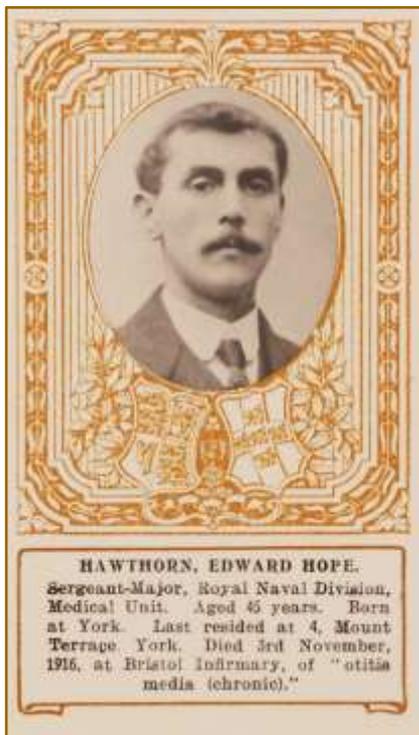
# GREAT WAR MEMORIAL

REMEMBERING THE 86  
FORMER PUPILS

# EDWARD HOPE HAWTHORNE

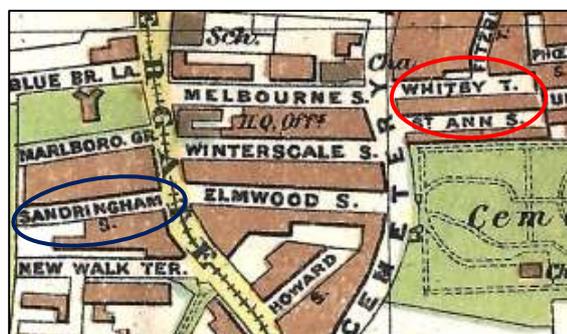
1871 - 1916

DEAL/3467 SERGEANT MAJOR  
ROYAL MARINES  
MEDICAL UNIT ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION



Edward Hope Hawthorne was born in York in March 1871, the son of Edward H. Hawthorne and his wife Anne (née Jackson).

In the 1871 Census, the family lived at 23 Whitby Terrace, off Cemetery Road (red circle on map). Edward Hope (senior) was aged 24 and a foreman glass-cutter at the huge glassworks in Fishergate. Anne was 25 and their son, Edward, seven months old. Also living with them was his father's brother Richard Hawthorne (14), a glass-engraver and three of his mother's relations; John Jackson (23), a saddler, Sarah Jackson (18), a domestic servant, and Jane Jackson (13).



By 1881 they had moved to a larger house, 24 Sandringham Street, (blue circle on map).

The Jacksons had left, but Richard Hawthorne was still living with them and there were two new children, John William aged 8 and Harold eleven months. Edward (10) attended Fishergate School.

We think Edward was probably a pupil-teacher at Fishergate, as the 1891 Census records him, aged 20, attending The Wesleyan Teacher Training College at Westminster. He may even be the dashing looking man in a straw hat in the photo on the front cover. The College had been built in 1851 and was impressive building within sight of Big Ben. Later it later moved to Oxford.



At the end of 1894 Edward married Margaret Eleanor Richardson in York, and the 1901 census finds them living on the other side of the Ouse at 49 Millfield Road off Scarcroft Road, with children, another Edward Hope (5) and John Eric (3). A servant and lodger lived with them. Edward senior was a certificated school teacher at Sipton Street School (photo left) in the Bootham area near York Football Club under the headmaster, H B Morrell.

When Mr Morrell moved to the newly-built Scarcroft School (photo right) he asked Edward to go with him. Edward's reputation was that he was a most popular teacher, with a quiet demeanour and he was greatly liked by his pupils.



In addition to teaching, Edward was part of the East Yorkshire Volunteers and the West Riding Artillery. After 18 years of service he was awarded a

Territorial Efficiency Medal, but afterwards resigned due to ill health. In fact, there are frequent references to ill health relating to an accident during his voluntary service, although this did not prevent from enlisting in 1915 (see below).



In 1915 when he was aged 44, Edward was put in charge of the Boy Scouts, who were employed by the City for war time duties. From their headquarters in Bridge Street, Boy Scouts delivered messages for the War Office across the city. In July 1915, in the absence of agricultural labourers, they helped local farmers collect their harvest. The photo shows Edward's son Eddie in Scout uniform delivering messages.

*(©Hawthorne archive, courtesy of Clements Hall History Group)*

Throughout the war, Yorkshire Scouts also guarded Eccup Reservoir and Headingley Water Supplies and others harvested flax at Bramham for use in making aircraft wings. Girl Guides delivered milk, tended allotments and packaged uniforms throughout the country.

Military Sunday was one opportunity for children to show support for their parents in a public setting. Scouts marched through St Helen's Square and up Stonegate towards the Minster. They were dressed in full uniform with flags raised and trumpets playing. After 28 days of helping with the war effort each boy was awarded a War Service badge and by December 1914, only 5 months after war had started, 50,000 badges had been handed out across Great Britain.



At the commencement of the War Edward had also been put in charge of York Volunteers Aid Detachment (or Red Cross), who were trained to do many jobs: nursing duties, transport of the wounded, setting up auxiliary hospitals, stretcher bearing and many, many other jobs associated with the sick and wounded.

*(photo from www.Dvoraliberman.com)*

In 1915 the Government agreed that these volunteers should join the Military Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC).

Thus, six months after the war started, on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1915, Edward enlisted and joined the Medical Unit of the Royal Naval Division. Owing to his previous training, he was immediately despatched to the Dardanelles. His first action was at the Anzac (Australian) landing on the Gallipoli Peninsular where he was involved in rescuing the wounded while constantly under fire. The Turkish forces wreaked havoc on the Allies and weather conditions were terrible, both causing huge a number of deaths.



*(Photo www.gallipoli.gov.au)*



Whilst abroad, Edward wrote constantly to family and friends, telling cheerful and amusing stories so as not to upset his readers, but he also hinted at the awful conditions; *"if you can invent a decent fly catcher guaranteed to catch millions at once we shall all be grateful"*.

On Christmas Eve 1915 Edward was drinking a mug of tea when the tin mug was struck by a bullet! He sent it home as a souvenir. *(photo from Hawthorne family)*

While in Gallipoli his Commanding Officer, Major General Paris, commended him for his "zeal and devotion to duty" at Cape Helles.



After evacuation from Gallipoli, Edward was sent to Mudros, on the island of Lemnos, Greece and finally to France which he entered through Marseilles.

(photo of a Casualty Clearing Station from [www.ramc-ww1.com/chain\\_of\\_evacuation.php](http://www.ramc-ww1.com/chain_of_evacuation.php))

But Edward was getting on in years for the life of a soldier in the field, and he was also suffering poor health; partly due to the conditions he had endured, including an extended period of time in the water at Gallipoli, and also from an accident he has sustained sometime during his 18 years of voluntary service before enlisting in 1915.

In September 1916, Edward was taken by hospital train to the military hospital in Boulogne, and subsequently he was sent back to England and admitted to the South General Hospital in Bristol. (pictured right)



Edward's army records say he was suffering from "polypus" in his right ear, which his family now interpret as septic meningitis.

He died in the Hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1916 aged 45 and his body was sent home for burial at York Cemetery, (N589 3467 RN).

His CWGC headstone (photo right) faces the family headstone (photo below left). The latter is inscribed in his memory and also in the memory of parents and his wife Margaret Eleanor.



Edward left a widow and two sons who were then living at 4 Mount Terrace, York (pictured right). They were the legatees of £137.

At his death, his older son, Edward, aged 20, was serving in France with the Seaforth Highlanders. He had joined up after going to Leeds University.



*We are grateful to the Hawthorne family and Clements Hall History Group, for access to some of Edward Hope Hawthorne's letters and other information about this remarkable man.*

Edward is also remembered on the Fishergate School Memorial and in the *King's Book of Heroes*.

REMEMBERED WITH HONOUR

EDWARD HOPE HAWTHORNE



AGED 45 YEARS