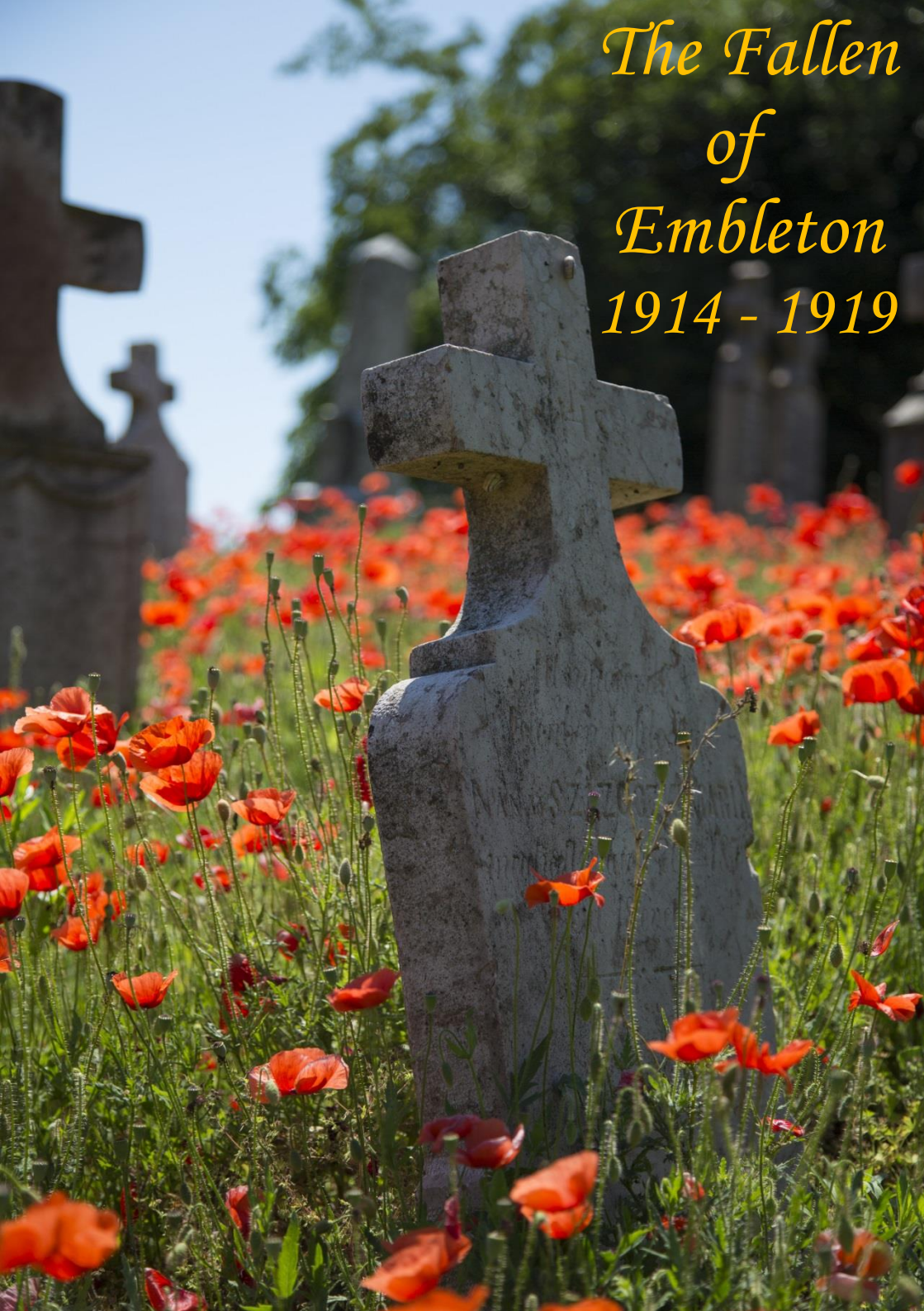


*The Fallen
of
Embleton
1914 - 1919*



The Fallen of Embleton

1914 – 1919

*A tribute to the men of Embleton
who fell in the Great War*

*Written and researched by
Terry Howells
Mary Kibble
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Names on Memorials

NAME	COMMEMORATED	BORN	LIVED IN
Thomas Appleby	Unknown	4.10.1878 Embleton	Wolverhampton
Alfred Barrs	Spitalford War Memorial	1874 Rowley Regis Staffordshire	Embleton
David W Cowe	Spitalford War Memorial & School Board	1893 Christon Bank	Christon Bank
Oswin Creighton	Church	10.6.1883 Embleton	London
Robert Dickinson	School Board	1892 Embleton	Christon Bank
Arthur J Douglas	Spitalford War Memorial, School Board, U.R.C. Tray	3.1.1899 Christon Bank	Christon Bank
John Grey	School Board	6.9.1897 Newton Barns	Ellingham
William J.M.Humble	Spitalford War Memorial & School Board	1895 Embleton	Embleton
John Jeffery	School Board	1891 Embleton	Embleton
John Luke	Spitalford War Memorial & School Board	1894 Embleton	Embleton
Herbert Luke	Spitalford War Memorial & School Board	1890 Embleton	Christon Bank
John McDougal	Spitalford War Memorial, School Board & Amble War Memorial	24.5.1891 Dunstan Steads	Amble
Peter McDougal	Spitalford War Memorial & School Board	1894 Embleton	Embleton
Robert W. McLaren	Spitalford War Memorial & School Board	14.12.1898 Embleton	Embleton
Ralph Robinson	Spitalford War Memorial	1885 Longhoughton	Embleton
James C. Roxby	Spitalford War Memorial, School Board & St Giles Cathedral Edinburgh	1895 Embleton	Embleton
Thomas Straffen	Spitalford War Memorial & School Board	1896 Brunton	Brunton
George E. Wade	Spitalford War Memorial, School Board, U.R.C. Tray	1896 Embleton	Embleton
David Welsh	Spitalford War Memorial, School Board & Chatham Naval Memorial	20.8.1882 South Charlton	Falldon
William H.Winstanley	School Board	7.6.1889 Oystermouth Glamorganshire	Newton on the Sea
David Woodcock	School Board	27.4.1898 Craster	Embleton
William Cole/Grey	Spitalford Cemetery	1877 Durham	York

[Names in blue are on Embleton church memorial board](#)

Index	Died	Page	
Names on Memorials		i	
Index		ii - iii	
Introduction		iv	
Explanatory Terms		iv - vii	
1914		1	
D F Welsh	Royal Navy	22/09/14	3
1915		7	
J A McDougal	Northumberland Fusiliers	27/08/15	8
1916		11	
R Robinson	Northumberland Fusiliers	27/03/16	12
H Luke	Northumberland Fusiliers	01/07/16	16
W Cole	Royal Welsh Fusiliers	17/10/16	19
J Luke	Royal Fusiliers	05/11/16	22
J Grey	Northumberland Fusiliers	14/11/16	24
1917		29	
D W Cowe	Northumberland Fusiliers	28/04/17	30
J Jeffrey	Prince of Wales Own	01/08/17	33
G E Wade	Siege Battery R.G.A.	11/10/17	35
W J M Humble	Manchester Regiment	26/10/17	38
P W McDougal	Northumberland Fusiliers	29/10/17	41
D A Woodcock	Lancashire Fusiliers	Died 25/11/17	43
J P Roxby	Siege Battery R.G.A.	19/12/17	45
1918		49	
A J Douglas	Northumberland Fusiliers	23/08/18	50
O Creighton	Chaplain of Forces	09/04/18	53
T Appleby	Royal Field Artillery	Died 22/04/18	55
R J J Dickinson	Northumberland Fusiliers	26/05/18	58
R W McLaren	East Yorkshire Regiment	28/05/18	60
A Barrs	Signal Coy Royal Engineers	18/09/18	63

Index continued		Died	Page
1919			67
T Straffen	East Yorkshire Regiment	12/02/19	67
W H Winstanley	Royal Navy	02/19	69
After the War			71
Appendix	Military Formations / Illustrations		76
Acknowledgements			77



Introduction

They called it The Great War, the war to end all wars – World War 1 which began on 4th August 1914 and was to last for five long, terrible years. Millions died in horrific conditions – gassed, blown to bits by hostile fire, sucked down by rain-sodden mud and much, much more.

Among those who perished were a few men from our own area who are commemorated on the Embleton War Memorial in Spitalford Cemetery, on the Embleton School Honours Board, on a tray which belonged to the URC church Embleton and in Holy Trinity Church Embleton.

This book seeks to describe the backgrounds and lives of these men, in as far as the authors are able, and to trace what happened to them after they enlisted, the battles they engaged in, how and where they met their end and their final resting places.

Although the major Embleton War Memorial at Spitalford is dedicated to the men of the ecclesiastical Parish of Embleton as it was after the War, it was decided to restrict this book to commemorate men who were born or lived in the local government Parish of Embleton as it is now (basically the villages of Embleton and Christon Bank) plus others closely associated with the Parish through attending the Vincent Edwards school in Embleton, or being buried in Embleton cemetery.

Explanatory notes on terms used in the book:-

Derby (Group) Scheme

In spring 1915 enlistments had averaged 100,000 men per month, but this could not be sustained. The upper age limit was raised from 38 to 40 in May 1915 in an effort to keep the numbers up, but it became clear that voluntary recruitment was not going to provide the numbers of men required. The government passed the National Registration Act on 15th July 1915 as a step towards stimulating recruitment. All those between 15 and 65, who were not already in the military were obliged to register. This showed there

were almost 5 million males of military age who were not in the forces, although 1.6m were in highly skilled jobs and were therefore protected from enlistment. As a result the so called Derby Scheme was introduced with the aim of raising the number of enlistments. Men aged 18 to 40 were informed that under the scheme they could continue to enlist voluntarily or attest with an obligation to come if called up later on. The War Office notified the public that voluntary enlistment would soon cease and that the last day of registration would be 15th December 1915.

Men who attested under the Derby Scheme and were accepted for service were paid a day's army pay for the day they attested; were given a grey armband with a red crown as a sign that they had so volunteered; were transferred into Section B Army Reserve; and were sent back to their homes and jobs until they were called up.

Only 2.5 million men came forward under the scheme and it was dubbed a failure.



Medals

There are three common medals that were awarded during the war. The most frequent combinations are "trios" and "pairs". Trios are made up of one or other of the 1914 or 1914-15 Stars, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The three medals were sometimes irreverently referred to as *'Pip, Squeak & Wilfred'*. Pairs are generally for servicemen who joined the war after 1915, and are the British War Medal with the Victory Medal, colloquially known as the *'Mutt and Jeff'* pair.

The British War Medal was approved in 1919, for issue to officers and men of British and Imperial forces who had rendered service between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918.

The Victory Medal was awarded to anyone mobilised in any service and entering a theatre of war between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918. The medal was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914-1915 Star, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal - it was never awarded singly.

The 1914 Star (colloquially known as the Mons Star) was approved in 1917, for issue to officers and men of British forces who served in France or Belgium between 5th August and midnight 22nd 23rd November 1914.

The 1914 – 1915 Star was approved in 1918, for issue to officers and men of British and Imperial forces who served in any theatre of the War between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915.

All the 'Embleton' men received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Some received the 1914 – 1915 Star as noted in the book.

Salient

A salient is a battlefield feature that projects into enemy territory. The salient is surrounded by the enemy on three sides, making the troops occupying the salient vulnerable.

Service Records

Whilst all the men who took part in the war had a service record which included both physical and service details, over 60% of

these were destroyed by a bomb during the Second World War. In the case of the men included in this book, only the service record of William Winstanley survives

War Diaries

British Army War Diaries were handwritten or typed documents providing a daily account of the activities of a British, Dominion, Indian or Colonial Army unit on active service. It was the responsibility of the commander of every military unit – from the level of a battalion to a division – to ensure that the War Diary was kept up to date. It was to be written up each evening by a specific junior officer and signed off by a senior officer. The diaries were often written under very difficult circumstances by exhausted men, and so the quality and quantity of information included varies considerably.

A summary of the War Diary was compiled by month for every month that the unit was on active service.

Wills

The four Wills mentioned in this book are really messages from the grave because they were never received by those for whom they were intended. Recently Wills made by servicemen who died in the First World War have been released after being retained by officialdom and stored away for nearly 100 years. The Wills, made in haste as troops went to the front, show that no legal niceties were observed and no witness was required to the signing.

