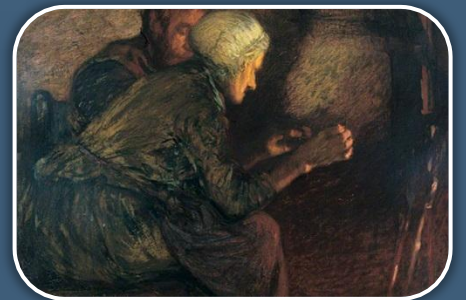


The Ossett War Memorial Project

The 11th November Unveiling



Presented by Alan Howe



*World War One ended at 11a.m. on 11th November
1918*



*Private Arthur Dews was looking forward to going home to
see his family at 10 Hags Hill Road Ossett.*

But then



So what happened to Private Arthur Dews on Armistice Day 1918?

- Private Illingworth was shaking his jerkin and dusting it against a wall and the assumption is that a hand grenade must have slipped inside the lining and detonated.
- The explosion killed Illingworth almost instantly, severely injuring Private Arthur Dews and Private Geoffrey Grayson, who both later died from their wounds.
- Private Arthur Dews died one month later on the 11th December 1918 aged 24 years and was buried in France
- Why is this significant to the War Memorial Project?
- Because Arthur Dews is not remembered on any of the 18 Ossett Rolls of Honour or Memorials. Why?



Overview WW1

- We set out to find why. The basis of our research was the Commemoration Programme for the unveiling of the War Memorial in 1928. It contained the names of 230 men.
- Other Ossett Memorials & Rolls, the Ossett Observer and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission recorded another 85 men, who were born or lived in Ossett.
- Arthur Dews was not the only Ossett man not to be remembered. In total we have discovered 315 Ossett men who lost their lives in WW1.
- In 2014 we set out to discover who were these 315 men? Where did they live and work? How did they lose their lives? We researched and wrote 315 biographies for WW1.



Overview WW2

- In 2016 Steve Wilson suggested that we should write biographies for WW2 Ossett men and women who had lost their lives.
- Ossett did not have a list of these men and women. Using the three Ossett Rolls for WW2, press obituaries and CWGC listings, we found and wrote biographies for 85 men and 2 women.
- 61 are not remembered on any Ossett WW2 Roll of Honour.
- Thus we know that at least 315 Ossett men lost their lives in WW1. At least 87 Ossett men and women lost their lives in WW2.
- And so we have at least 402 Ossett men and women who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2. THE OSSETT FALLEN. Maybe more.
- This then was our journey, which began by wondering why one man, Arthur Dews was not being remembered.
- None of this research was undertaken with the intention of campaigning for the names of these men and women to be included on a single Ossett Memorial or Roll of Honour.
- Nonetheless without this information the campaign for the names would not have been possible. This was the beginning.



Ossett War Memorial History



- Meanwhile back in 1917 Ossett debated what should be done to immortalise the names of the Ossett war dead.
- Meetings were poorly attended. Ossett was war weary and lives were still being lost.
- Ideas included a Memorial, a park, scholarships, endowments, a bronze statue rescuing a child from an eagle on an island in a lake near Ossett Spa School. One lake for boating another for swimming. Swimming baths for personal cleanliness, Almshouses and so on.
- They formed a Committee and met a year later in late October 1918.
- They were overtaken by events and met again in late November. Fewer than 20 people turned up. A better turnout in February 1919 when 120 braved the cold to debate options. The meeting favoured a public park.
- They formed another Committee.
- Nine years and nine months later in November 1928 Ossett unveiled its War Memorial

The Ossett War Memorial 1928



This is the original location of the Ossett War Memorial at the Town Hall end of Kingsway when it was unveiled on November 11th 1928 by Lord Lascelles.

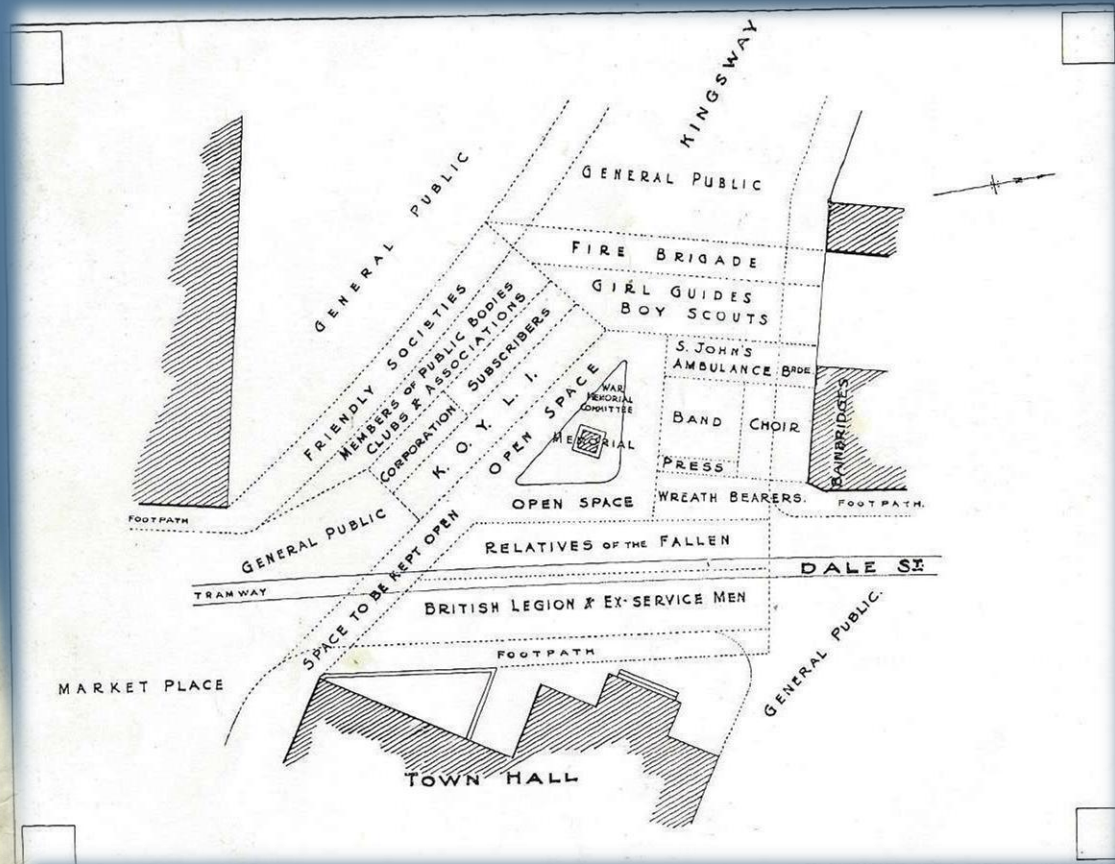
Gedham Mill is in full view on the right of the picture and Kingsway has yet to have houses built.

1928 Commemoration Programme

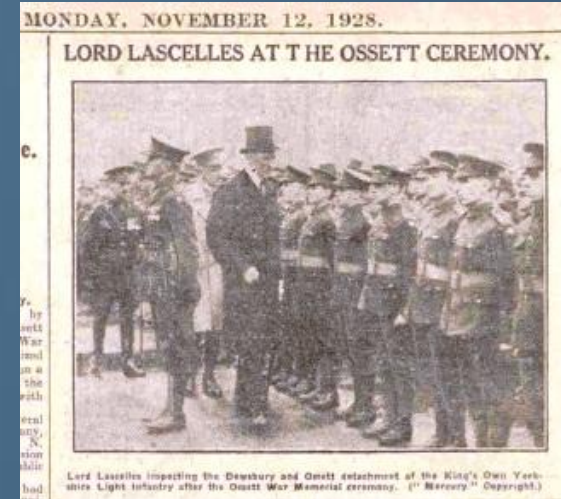
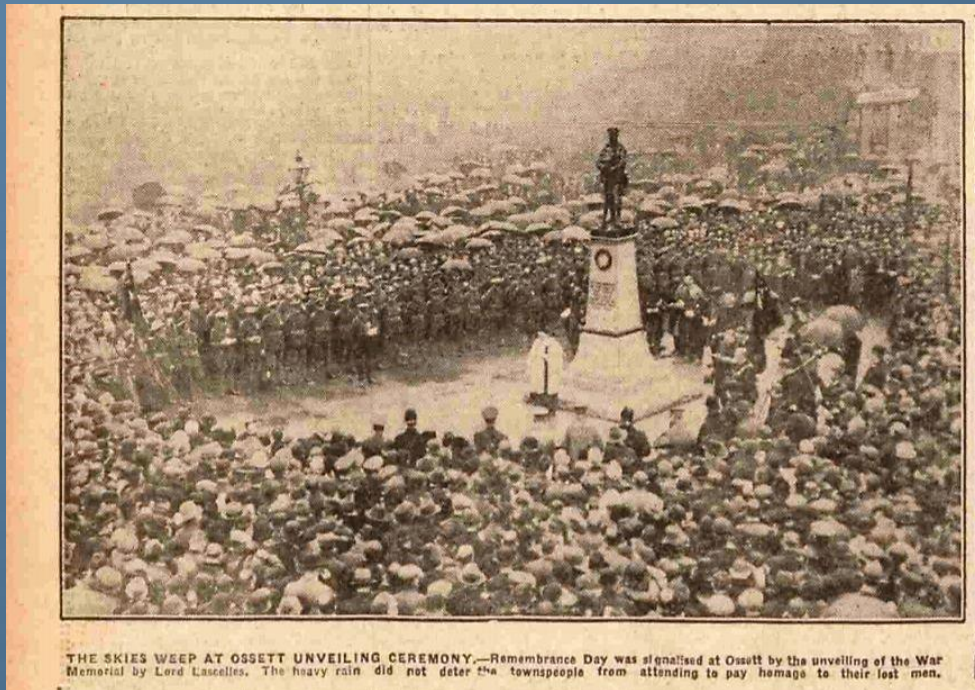
BOROUGH OF OSSETT

MEMORIAL
of the
GREAT WAR
1914 - 1919

UNVEILING *and* DEDICATION
SUNDAY : NOV. 11th. : 1928



November 11th 1928 – The Unveiling



The Skies Weep at Ossett

Ossett and the Princess Royal

PRINCESS MARY'S SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' CHRISTMAS FUND.

To THE EDITOR.

DEAR SIR,—As Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary is anxious that all classes should be represented in the Fund that she is raising for presenting Christmas gifts to our sailors afloat and our soldiers at the front, my Committee would deem it a favour if you could find room in your paper for enclosed coupon. I may add that the gift will consist of an embossed tobacco box, tinder lighter, pipe, tobacco and cigarettes.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ROWLAND BERKELEY,
Hon. Secretary.

Ritz Hotel,
Piccadilly, London, W.
7th November, 1914.

P.S.—I enclose copy of her Royal Highness's appeal.

PRINCESS MARY'S SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' CHRISTMAS FUND.

"I want you all now to help me to send a Christmas present from the whole Nation to every sailor afloat and every soldier at the front. Please will you help me?"

MARY.

To H.R.H. The Princess Mary,
Buckingham Palace, London.

I beg to enclose £ s. d. as a donation to your Royal Highness's Fund.

Name

Address



PRINCESS ROYAL IN OSSETT, 1941

Interesting Facts

- The Ossett War Memorial was moved in 1954 to an alternative position on Kingsway, then again in *2001* to the present position in the Market Place. It was granted Grade 2 listed status in 1988.



Seen here in 1960



Seen here in 2008

The Ossett War Memorial



Left: The original position in the centre of Kingsway with the WW2 inscription

Above: During the move in 1954 to the second position at the bottom of Kingsway

Changing Places



WAR MEMORIAL OSSETT

LILYWHITE LTD
BRIGHOUSE

2018 War Memorial Project



- The Beginning. The Concept in July/August 2017.
- Why did it matter? Was it possible? Did we dare?
- Funding opportunities - WMDC Local Capital Grant Fund
- Options for remembering the names of The Ossett Fallen. What form should it take? Where should it be?
- A single plaque or plaques? What material? Bronze, aluminium, brass, steel or stone?
- Where? The Town Hall? The War Memorial? The WWII Community Centre? Should we have one at all?
- Royal British Legion. The key partner.
- The Consultation. Ossett Interest Groups. The power of social media. October 2017
- More than 700 voted. 95% favoured the Names to be “on or at” the Grade II listed Ossett War Memorial. Two people voted for the status quo.
- The Challenges: Bureaucracy, Planning Application, The War Memorial Trust.
- The Submission: Target November 11th 2017. Slipped to December 6th 2017.
- The Decision: Target December 31st 2017 Final approval February 13th 2018.

Where Should We Remember Them?



The Town Hall Entrance?

The Town Hall walls?



The War Memorial?

2018 War Memorial Project

- The Implementation. Order Memorial Stones from China. March 31st . 13 weeks lead in.
- Delivery due by June 30th. Engraving by August 31st. Groundworks & Laying by end October 2018.
- The Challenge. Implementation Programme slips 2 months. July & August is lost.
- Stones arrive late June 19 stones due. 2 missing 7 damaged .
- 2 stones flown out. Followed by one wrongly cut 3rd stone. Also flown out . Full 19 stone complement not achieved until August 31st 2018
- Engraved September. Laid October 15th . Completed October 19th 2018
- The Aspiration Planning with Royal British Legion for November 11th
- At the heart of the Proposal. Children and Children's children.
- Activities /Publicity in the run up to November 11th

July to September 2018



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

WHEN YOU GO HOME, TELL THEM OF US AND SAY:
FOR YOUR TOMORROW, WE GAVE OUR TODAY.

LEST WE FORGET



THE GREAT WAR

1914 - 1918

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| John Akeroyd | Percy Audsley |
| James E. B. Allott | Wilfred Audsley |
| Harry Ambler | Sam Balmforth |
| Eli T Archer | Joseph Baron |
| Fred Armitage | George A. Beaumont |
| Norman W. Armitage | Fred Beetham |
| Herbert Ashby | Harry Beetham |
| Harry Asquith | Harry Bickle |
| John W. Asquith | Alfred Bilbrough |
| John W. Atkinson | George H. Bingham |
| Arthur J. Audsley | Charles E. Binns |
| Edgar Audsley | William Binns |

THE WORLD WAR


1939 - 1945

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cyril Allsopp | John Clapham |
| Eric W. W. Archer | Stanley Cudworth |
| Leonard Auty | Thomas Curley |
| Colin Aveyard | John W. Davis |
| George A. Bastey | Douglas A. Dawson |
| William H. Battye | Ronald W. Dell |
| Ashley Beck | Arthur Dixon |
| Robert Bell | Walter Earnshaw |
| Percy Booth | Raymond Elliott |
| Harry Broadhead | James Ensor |
| Alan G. Chapman | Fred Finan |
| Edgar Chappell | Cyril Flint |

The Beginning of the End




Publicising the Event



 Horbury Sittlington & Ossett Branch
 In Association With
 Trinity Church
 &
 The War Memorial Project Team:
 Alan Howe
 Pat Howe
 Steve Wilson (ossett.net)
 Anne-Marie Fawcett (OTTA)



Ossett War Memorial on Kingsway
1928 - 1954



Remembrance Sunday
 11th November 2018
 Programme of
 Events
 &
 Services



**THE OSSETT
 FALLEN WWI &
 WWII**
 € Public group



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6:00am
 Join members of
 The Royal British Legion
 As
 Mr. David Holdsworth
 Lone Piper *
 Marks the signing of the truce
 At
 Ossett War Memorial
 On
 The Market Place
 *Pipers at war memorials across
 the world will play...
 "When The Battles Over"
 at this time.

10:15am
 Meet at
 Ossett War Memorial
10:30am
 Why we are here
10:45am
 Mr. Peter Waters
 Parade Marshal
 &
 Vice Chairman T.R.B.L.
 Introduces
 The 11am tribute
 Including unveiling the names of
The Ossett Fallen


2:00pm
 Meet @ Northfield Lane Ossett
 For parade to Ossett Trinity
 Church
2:20pm
 Remembrance
 Service in Church
3:00pm
 Parade
 To Ossett Market Place
3:20pm
 Service of Remembrance
 &
 Dedication
 Ossett War Memorial

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2018
 100 YEARS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE ARMISTICE THE
 NAMES OF OSSETT'S 400 FALLEN WILL BE UNVEILED
 AT THE WAR MEMORIAL IN THE MARKET PLACE




A SILENT INTRODUCTION AT 10.15AM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN
 ACT OF REMEMBRANCE BY THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
 AT 2.20PM A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE WILL BE HELD AT HOLY
 TRINITY CHURCH FOLLOWED BY A PROCESSION TO THE WAR MEMORIAL
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Ossett War Memorial in its second location, still on Kingsway, 1954 - 2001.
 Pictured here on Remembrance Day 1954



Remembrance Day Sunday 11th November 2018.
 An Act of Remembrance
 and
 Unveiling of the Names of The Ossett Fallen from 10.15am at the War
 Memorial.
 Afternoon Remembrance Service from 2.20 pm at Holy Trinity Church
 followed by a procession to the War Memorial for the Re-Dedication.

Ossett War Memorial - The 100 Year Journey



Ossett War Memorial Kingsway 1928 - 1954

The Day Arrives November 11th 2018

6:00am

Join members of
The Royal British Legion
As
Mr. David Holdsworth
Lone Piper *
Marks the signing of the truce
At
Ossett War Memorial
On
The Market Place

*Pipers at war memorials across
the world will play...
"When The Battles Over"
at this time.

10:15am

Meet at
Ossett War Memorial

10:30am

Why we are here

10:45am

Mr. Peter Waters
Parade Marshall
&
Vice Chairman T.R.B.L.
Introduces
The 11am tribute
Including unveiling the names of
The Ossett Fallen

2:00pm

Meet @ Northfield Lane Ossett
For parade to Ossett Trinity
Church

2:20pm

Remembrance
Service in Church

3:00pm

Parade
To Ossett Market Place

3:20pm

Service of Remembrance
&
Dedication
Ossett War Memorial



Remembrance Day November 11th

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon

Lone Piper - Mr. David Holdsworth

“When The Battle is Over”

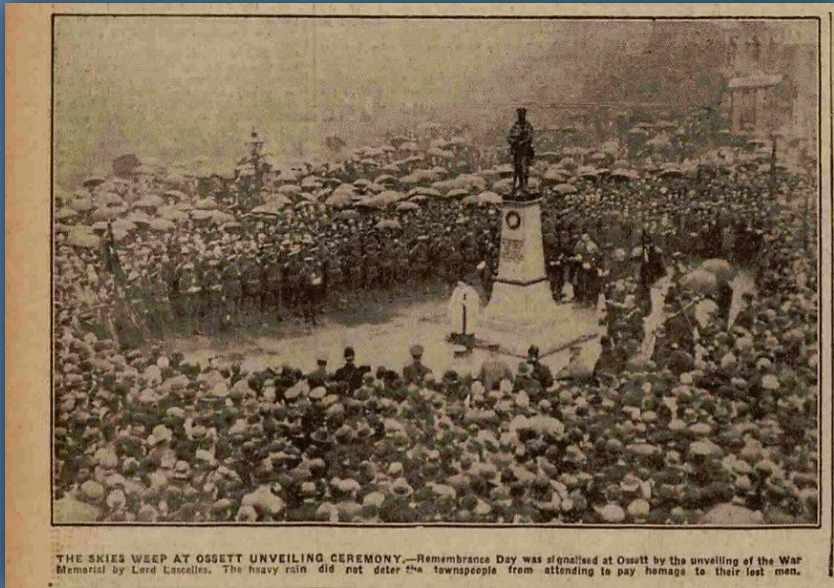


Before The Crowd



The Crowds Gather for the Sunday Morning Remembrance Act and the Unveiling of the Names of the Ossett Fallen

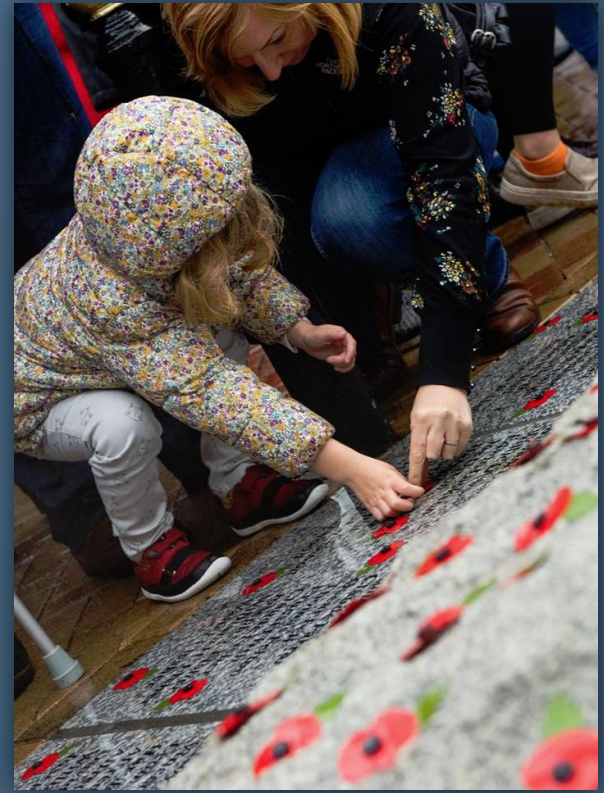




THE SKIES WEEP AT OSSETT UNVEILING CEREMONY.—Remembrance Day was signalled at Ossett by the unveiling of the War Memorial by Lord Lasselles. The heavy rain did not deter the townspeople from attending to pay homage to their lost men.











Children from Ossett's 11 schools who recorded the names of the Ossett Fallen and those who unveiled the 11 flags covering the names on the Memorial Stones

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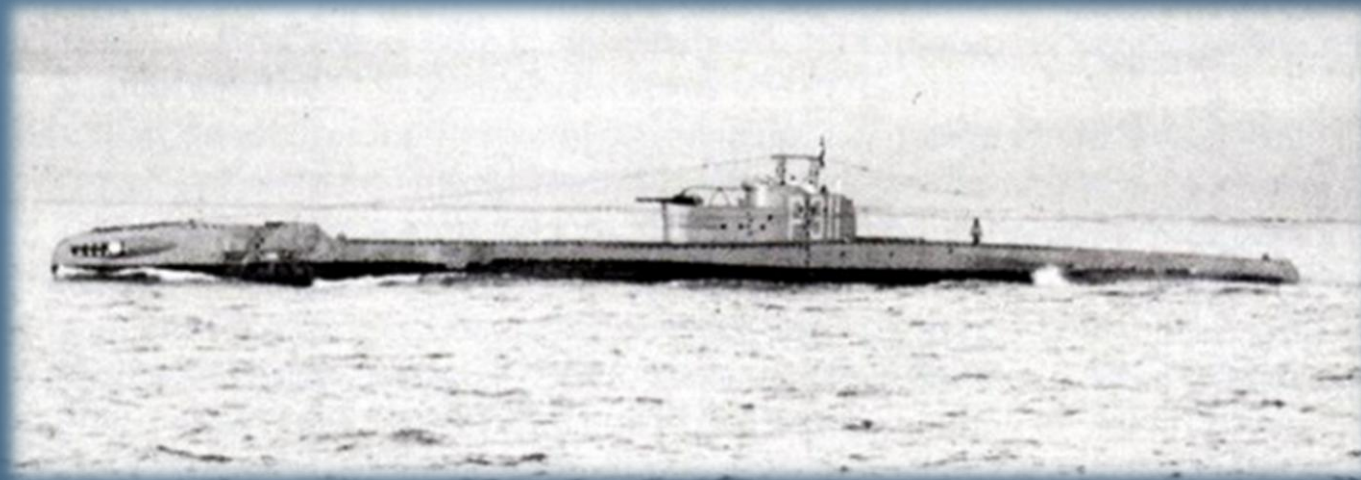
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Able Seaman Leonard Auty

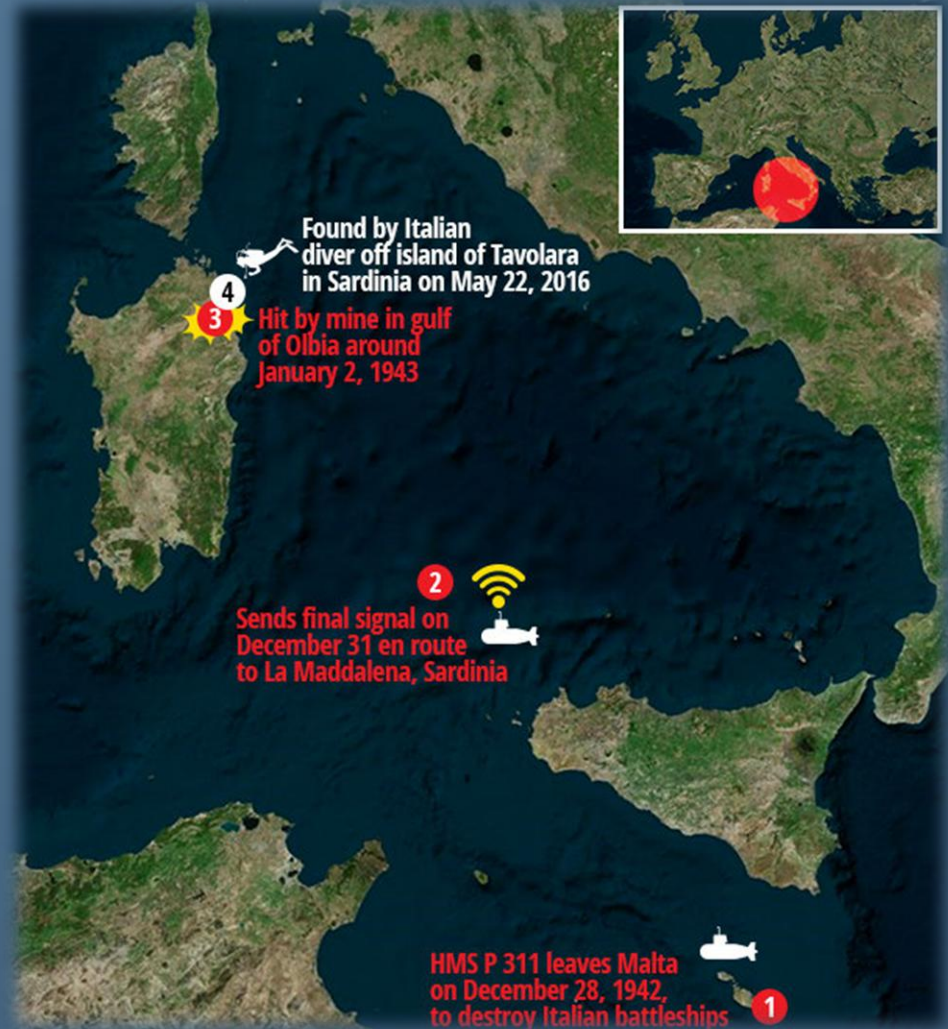
Leonard Auty, born 1916, joined the Royal Navy in 1940 and served as a submariner on submarine P311, which was named "Tutankhamen".

- Leonard Auty married Annis Jackson in 1940 in Ossett and the couple had a son, Geoffrey Auty born in late 1941.
- The "Tutankhamen" sent her final signal on the 31st December 1942, from the sea off the north coast of Sardinia on her way to attack two enemy cruisers.
- The submarine was never heard of again and it is presumed that P311 was sunk by Italian mines on or around the 2nd January, 1943.



Able Seaman Leonard Auty

- In summer 2016, 73 years after it was lost, the sunken wreck of P311 with 71 bodies sealed inside was found at a depth of 100 metres by experienced Italian wreck-hunter, Massimo Bordone, off the north coast of Sardinia.
- The ship sat on the seabed, acting as a steel coffin and depriving the crew of oxygen. Experts suggest the inner chamber was not flooded when it sank. "It looks like she probably went down with air sealed inside, meaning the crew eventually died of oxygen deprivation," Mr Bardone told Italian newspapers.



Questions & Answers

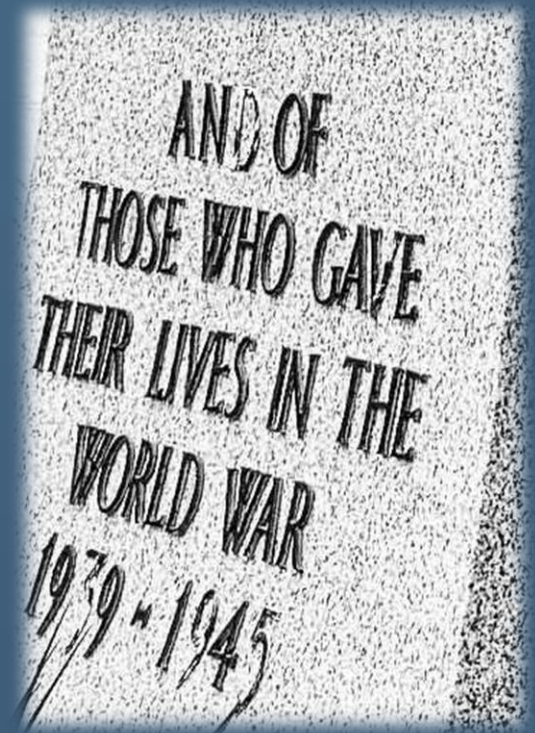
- Any questions from the audience?



They will be
remembered

The WW2 Ossett Fallen

- As far as we are aware, the men and women who gave their lives during WW2 were never officially recorded.
- We decided to try and produce a definitive list and to write biographies for each person.
- After much research, 85 Ossett men and two women were discovered to have lost their lives.
- Their names have been recorded on the granite stones laid around the Ossett War Memorial.
- We'd now like to present some of their stories.



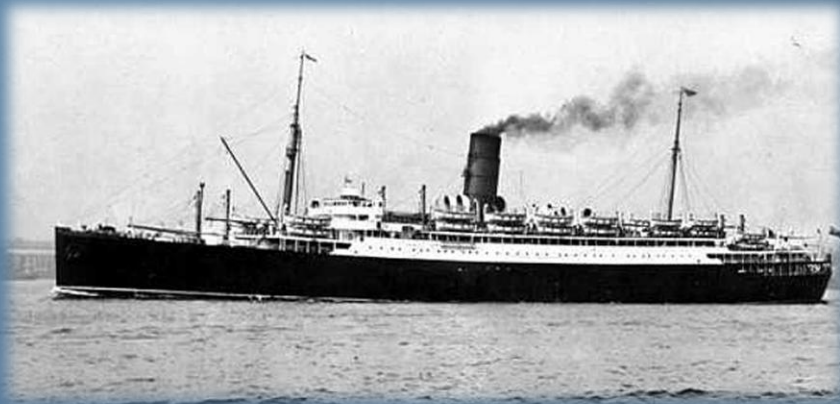


Private Gilbert Frudd

At 45, Gilbert Frudd was the oldest Ossett man to die in WW2 after serving also in WW1 with KOYLI, when he was held as a PoW in Germany. His cousin James Frudd was the oldest Ossett man to die in WW1 at the age of 50 years.

- Married for a second time, after the death of his first wife Susan, Gilbert lived with his wife Lottie at 6, Audrey Street, Ossett.
- Private Frudd was to lose his life in perhaps the biggest tragedy of WW2, when the HMT “Lancastria” was sunk by a German bomber in June 1940 with the loss of at least 6,000 lives.
- Churchill immediately hid the news from the public. In 1940, after Dunkirk, to reveal the truth would have been too damaging for civilian morale.
- Since that time the disaster has never been recognised for what it was: the greatest maritime disaster in Britain's history. More people were killed on the Lancastria than on the Titanic and Lusitania put together.

Private Gilbert Frudd





Flight Sgt Henry Gardener

Henry Gardener was born in Wakefield in 1917 and after marrying Reba Mildred Love in 1939, lived at 39, Ryecroft Street, Ossett, the home of Reba's parents.

Sergeant Gardner was the bomb-aimer on a 103 Squadron Lancaster bomber based at RAF Elsham Wolds in North Lincolnshire.

- On Tuesday, 6th July 1943, Lancaster Mk.1 W4363 left Elsham Airfield on a mission to lay mines in the Gironde river in France. The aircraft left Elsham at 22:28.
- Either en route or returning, the Lancaster was involved in an air battle with a German fighter and was shot down off the French coast in the North Sea at an unknown crash site. All seven crew lost their lives and their bodies were never recovered.



Flight Sgt Henry Gardener



Henry Gardner was one of over 1,000 airmen who died between 1941 and 1945 on missions from RAF Elsham in Lincolnshire and now the old airfield is reputed to be haunted with frequent ghostly sightings.





Augusta Myers

Augusta Myers was born in Spring 1917, the daughter and only child of Ossett rag merchant Oliver Myers and his wife Augusta (nee Mitchell) of 'Greenlands', Dale Street, Ossett.

- Educated at Wakefield Girls' High School, and Huddersfield Technical College, she was appointed one of the county council's commercial subjects teachers, and taught typewriting, etc., at the evening technical institute of Ossett Grammar School.
- She inherited the family interest in politics and devoted much of her time to the Liberal Party. She held various positions in the Party, being president of Ossett Women's Junior Liberal Association.
- Three weeks after joining the W.A.A.F. in March 1942, she went into camp in Shropshire. On being transferred to Morecambe, it was found that she was very ill, and she was sent to hospital, where it was found she was suffering from quinsy.
- Quinsy is a rare and potentially serious complication of tonsillitis. An abscess forms between one of your tonsils and the wall of your throat.
- Aircraftwoman Augusta Myers died on the 1st April 1942, aged 25 years, and is buried at Holy Trinity Churchyard.



Augusta Myers

Andrew Wilson was born in 1856 at Ossett, but had moved to Leeds with his parents in 1869. He was married and had four children. Wilson ran a successful wool combing business at Charlestown Mill in Shipley with elder brother Denison, trading as D. & A. Wilson. The family lived at Potternewton, Leeds.

- It was November 1896 and Andrew Wilson had been suffering badly with quinsy, which is a painful condition caused by abscesses forming on the tonsils. It gives rise to a very sore throat and without the medicines we have today, must have been very debilitating. For Andrew Wilson, the pain was so bad and so depressing that it caused him to commit suicide in a most unpleasant fashion one cold November night.
- Mr. Wilson had recently been in a poor state of health and had suffered severely from quinsy from the attack he had never thoroughly recovered.
- Wilson had wandered about the Roundhay Park during the night. From the fact that his clothing was wet, it would seem that he had attempted to drown himself first before cutting his throat.
- At the spot where he was found, the water was only a foot deep, and there were heel marks in the sandy bottom, which would indicate that Mr. Wilson was sitting on the edge of the water when he inflicted his injury, and then fell back among the boats that were moored there.



Sub-Lieutenant Ashley Giggall

Ashley Giggall was born in Ossett on the 28th July 1910, the only son and youngest child of insurance agent and later shopkeeper, Nathan Giggall and his wife Mary Jane.

- By January 1929, Ashley was working for the Post Office, and qualified as a certified wireless operator, later joining Marconi Marine as a ship's radio officer from about the age of 20 years.
- On his transfer to the Royal Navy, Giggall was the 1st Radio Officer on HMS 'Crispin', an armed merchant (OBV) ocean boarding vessel.
- In fact, 'Crispin' would act as a "Q-Ship", or a decoy, which would trail a convoy looking like a helpless cargo ship in hopes of attracting German aircraft and surfaced submarines, thereby drawing the enemy away from the convoy.
- Q-Ships showed just how desperate the Royal Navy was in trying to deal with the dangers posed by U-boats and long-range bombers. It was considered a near suicide mission.



Sub-Lieutenant Ashley Giggal

At 23:33 hours on the 3rd February 1941, HMS 'Crispin' was hit in the engine room by one torpedo from German U-Boat, U-107, north-northwest of Rockall. A total of 121 crewmen managed to abandon ship and were picked up, but sadly not Ashley Giggal.

- Sub-Lieutenant Ashley Giggal, R.N.R., only son of Mrs. Giggal, 37, Wesley Street, Ossett and the late Mr. Nathan Giggal, was transferred to the Royal Navy, with the rank of sub-lieutenant on H.M.S. 'Crispin', an armed auxiliary cruiser on which he held the position of first radio officer. The ship was sunk through enemy action and he has been missing ever since and is presumed to have died on February 4th 1941.



The Crispin before it was converted to an armed Ocean Boarding Vessel (OBV)