

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Rank: Lance Corporal

Died : 9th April 1917 (France & Flanders)

2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)



Summary

Herbert Castle's family home was 16 Hopton Fold, Upper Hopton where he was raised by his parents Robert and Mary Ellen Castle and Herbert worked as a miner (Coal Hurrier).

Herbert was posted from the 4th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) to the 2nd Battalion DWR on the 17th February 1917.

On the 9th April 1917 Herbert was killed in action (age 24) during the Battle of Arras.

Western Front with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). Herbert was also reported as wounded in October 1915 and September 1916.

His younger brother Joe was also killed in action on the Western front in September 1916 (age 21).

His elder brother Harry served on the Western Front, he was wounded but survived the war and was discharged in January 1919.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Family details

Date of Birth	5th January 1893
Date of Baptism	
Church Baptised	
Father	Robert
Father's occupation	District Council Roadman
Mother	Mary Ellen
Siblings	Ada, Harry, Joe, stepsister Mary (Bertha)
Parents residence	16 Hopton Fold, Upper Hopton
Soldiers residence	Above
Soldiers Occupation	Coal Hurrier Underground (1911)
Married	No
Spouse	
Children	
Burial / Memorial	Arras Memorial, France
Age at death	24

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Castle family Census 1911

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedules 166
(To be filled up by the Enumerator after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards		BIRTHPLACE of every person born in a Foreign Country	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY			
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of— "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Divorced," or "Widow," or "Widower," or "Other Relative," or "Visitor," or "Boarder," or "Servant."	Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Divorced," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards. If how date see you were "under one" etc.	Children born alive to present Marriage (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.) Children born alive to previous Marriage has had, If how date see you were "under one" etc.	Personal Occupation.				Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employed— "Working on Own Account" or "Working as Hire."	Whether Working as Hire.
1 Robert Castle	Head	51	Married	22	5	5	none	Road man (Bridges) (Holland) (Nigeria)	Worker	Yorkshire	English	
2 Mary Ellen Castle	Wife	48	Married	22	4	4	—		Worker	Yorkshire	English	
3 Ada Castle	Daughter	21	Single					Blanket Weaver (Holland)	Worker	Yorkshire	English	
4 Harry Castle	Son	20	Single					Coal getter (Holland)	Worker	Yorkshire	English	
5 Herbert Castle	Son	17	Single					Coal hurrier (Holland)	Worker	Yorkshire	English	
6 Joe Castle	Son	16	Single					Coal hurrier (Holland)	Worker	Yorkshire	English	
7 Mary Helena	Daughter-in-law	29	Married	8	2	2	none	Blanket Whipper (Holland) (Blanket Manuf.)	Worker	Yorkshire	English	
8 Emily Helena	granddaughter	4						School		Yorkshire	English	
9 Laura Helena	granddaughter	6						School		Yorkshire	English	
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature Robert Castle
Postal Address Hopton Lodge Upper Hopton (Nigeria)

Herbert Castle (b. 5 Jan 1893) and Joe Castle (b. 6 Dec 1894) were brothers, but did you know that Ben Cassell was their first cousin? Ben's Dad Albert was the brother of Herbert & Joe's Dad, Robert. They just chose to spell their surname differently to confuse the issue! Robert's name is spelt in various ways on the official records sometimes Casel, Cassell or Castle but as Robert could not write it was often recorded at the whim of the official record enumerator.

Herbert & Joe's brother Harry Castle (b. 19th Nov 1890) also served in WWI. Harry survived and died in 1940. According to a newspaper cutting it says "Mr Castle served with the Mirfield Company during the Great War. He joined at the same time with two brothers and went to France. Neither of his brothers returned".

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Herbert's parents Robert and Mary Ellen



Records show that Joe's father Robert had a variety of jobs:

On the 1881 census Robert was a miner similar to his father James Castle. Note the spelling of the family name was "Castle" on this census. Robert lived with his father and mother (Mary) at 112 Hollin Hall.

On the 1891 census Robert is shown as a finisher at a woollen mill.

On Mary and George's marriage certificate (1903) Robert is shown as a railway plate layer.

On the 1911 census Robert is shown as a District Council Roadman.

See Robert's and Mary Ellen's wedding certificate below (note that Robert sign his name with an "X").

1884. Marriage solemnized at Saint John the Evangelist in the Parish of Upper Hopton in the County of York

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
97	July 25 1884	Robert Castle Mary Ellen Brook	28 26	Bachelor Spinster	Finisher	Upper Hopton Upper Hopton	James Castle William Brook	Miner Miner

Married in the Parish of Saint John the Evangelist according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after James by me, H. P. Thorne - Vicar

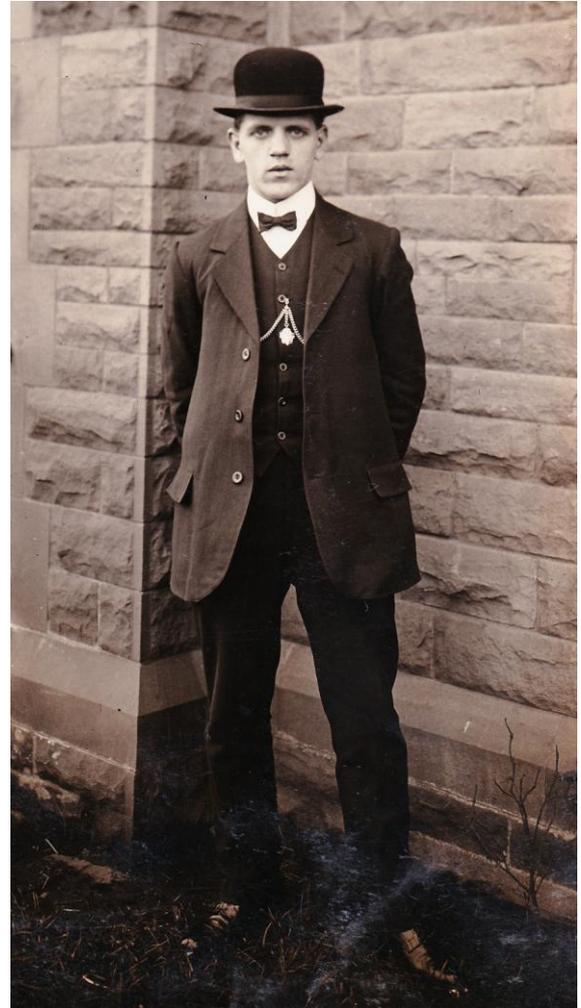
This Marriage was solemnized between us, Robert Castle his X mark in the Presence of us, Ursula Christophers his X mark
Mary Ellen Brook Emily Broadley

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Herbert Castle



The family is not sure which one of the Castle boys this photo shows.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Herbert's family photo



The photograph shows from left to right, Ada Castle, Joe Castle, Harry Castle, Mary Ellen Castle, Herbert Castle, Bertha Kilner and Bertha's two children Emily and Laura Kilner (see 1911 census where all of those in the above photograph are shown to be living in the same house in Hopton Fold)
(Photo approximately 1908-9)

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Mary Kilner (always known as Bertha)



Mary or Bertha as she was more commonly known was baptised in March 1882 (b.24 Feb.1882), the baptism records show that her mother was Mary Ellen Brook and her name was given as Mary Wilkinson Brook but there was no father's name.

Mary Ellen married Robert Cassells/Castle in 1888 and their eldest child Ada was born in 1889. Mary (Bertha) lived with her mother and Robert and the 1891 census records Mary/Bertha as a step daughter. The 1901 census showed that Mary/Bertha had dropped the name Wilkinson, choosing to be called Mary Brook. She married George Henry Kilner in 1903 (in 1901 the Kilner's and the Cassells were living next door to one another in

Hopton Fold). See the marriage certificate below. Henry subsequently left Mary/Bertha and moved to Hemsworth. Note on the family headstone in St John's churchyard, Mary/Bertha Kilner is buried with her mother .

1903. Marriage solemnized at <i>S. John the Evangelist's Church</i> in the Parish of <i>Upper Hopton</i> in the County of <i>Yorks</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
170	<i>Feb 1st</i>	<i>George Henry Kilner</i> <i>Mary Brook</i>	<i>20</i> <i>20</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Engine Cleaner</i>	<i>Hopton Fold,</i> <i>Upper Hopton.</i> <i>Hopton Fold,</i> <i>Upper Hopton.</i>	<i>Herbert Kilner</i>	<i>Engine-Tender</i>
Married in the <i>aforesaid Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by <i>Banns</i> or after <i>Banns</i> by me, <i>To Herbert Dodd, Vicar.</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>George Henry Kilner</i> <i>Mary Brook</i>			in the Presence of us,		<i>Harry Whitehead</i> <i>Joseph Holdsworth</i>	

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Herbert lived in Hopton Fold, shown in the photo below
(Several years later some of the cottages were demolished)



Postcard from Blackpool form Ada Castle, (Herbert's sister) to Miss Lilian Brook at Double Six, Upper Hopton 1911. Herbert is standing.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Military Details

Attestation / Enlistment

Deployment

Rank Lance Corporal

Medals 1914-1915 Star
British War Medal
Victory Medal

Regiment number 24967

Regiment 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's
(West Riding Regiment)
He was transferred from the 4th to
the 2nd Batt'n on the 17th Feb 1917.

Regimental Badge



Killed in Action 9th April 1917 (France & Flanders)

Cemetery or Memorial Arras Memorial, France

Age at death 24

Herbert was also reported wounded in October 1915 see newspaper report below.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

16.08.1914 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

1914 -The Battle of Mons and subsequent retreat, The Battle of Le Cateau and the Affair of Crepy-en-Valois, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, The Battles of La Bassee and Messines 1914, The First Battle of Ypres.

1915 - The Second Battle of Ypres and the Capture of Hill 60.

14 Jan 1916 Transferred to the 12th Brigade of the 4th Division.

1916 - The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Le Transloy.

1917 - The First Battle of the Scarpe, The Third Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Polygon Wood, The Battle of Broodseinde, The Battle of Poelcapelle, The First Battle of Passchendaele.

10 February 1918 Transferred to the 10th Brigade of the 4th Division;

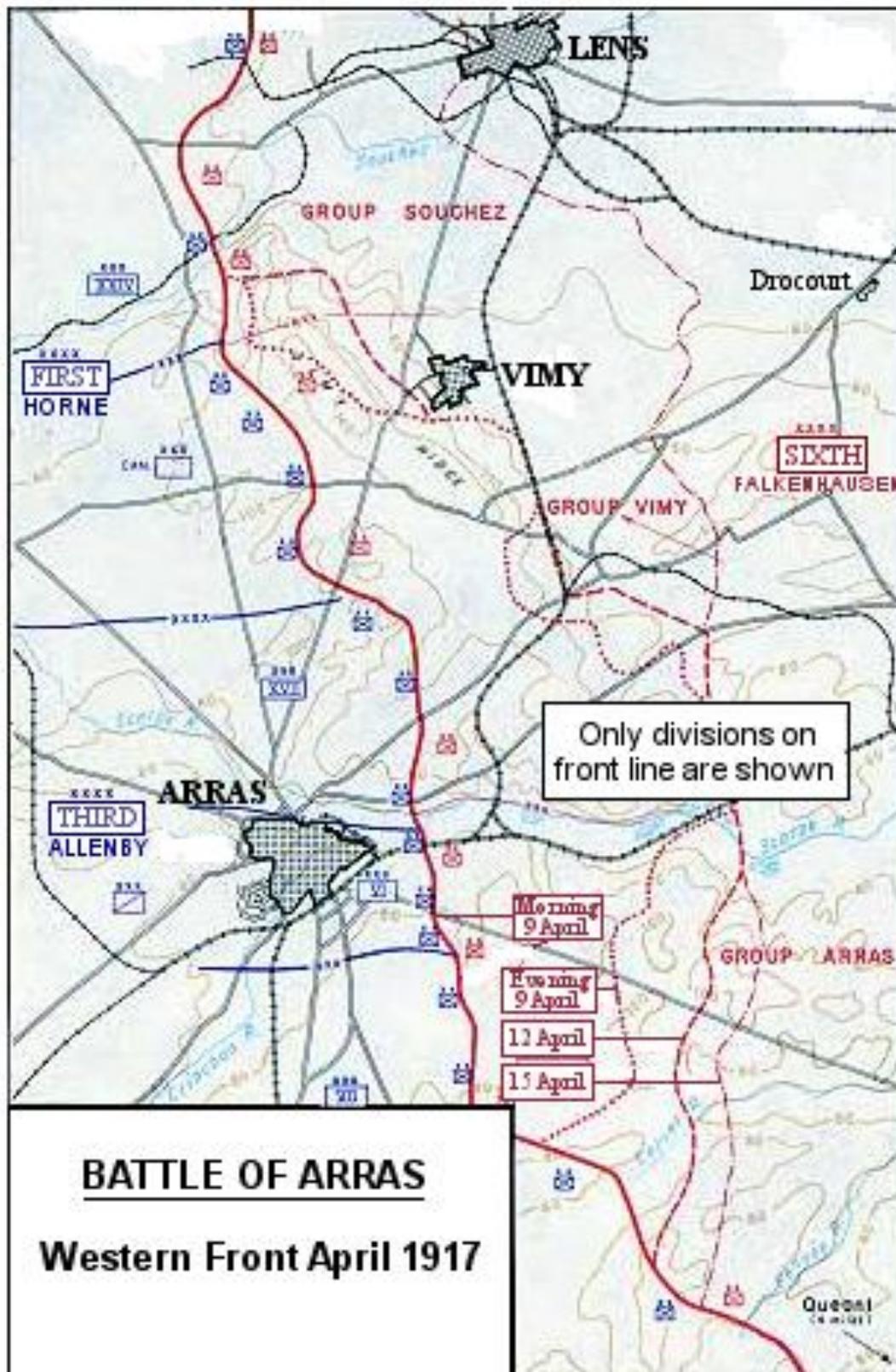
1918 - The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battle of Hazebrouck, The Battle of Bethune, The Advance in Flanders, The Battle of the Scarpe, The Battle of Drocourt-Queant, The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The Battle of the Selle, The Battle of Valenciennes.

Herbert lost his life on the 9 April 1917 which coincides with the battle of Vimy 9 to 14 April or First battle of Scarpe 9 to 14 April (Arras Offensive). Duke of Wellington's Regiment's records show that Herbert was killed in action at the Battle of Arras.

The **Battle of Arras** (also known as the **Second Battle of Arras**) was a British offensive on the Western Front during World War I. From 9 April to 16 May 1917, British troops attacked German defences near the French city of Arras on the Western Front. The British achieved the longest advance since trench warfare had begun, surpassing the record set by the French Sixth Army on 1 July 1916. The British advance slowed in the next few days and the German defence recovered. The battle became a costly stalemate for both sides and by the end of the battle, the British Third and First Armies had suffered about 160,000 and the German 6th Army about 125,000 casualties.



Herbert Castle



World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Herbert's Medals



1914 - 1915 Star



British War Medal



Victory Medal

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

In Memory of
Private

Herbert Castle

24967, 2nd Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 09 April 1917 Age 24

Son of Robert and Mary Ellen Castle, of 16, Hopton Fold, Mirfield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Arras Memorial

The Arras Memorial commemorates 34,795 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died from the spring of 1916 until 7th August 1918, and who have no known grave. Most of the casualties commemorated here were killed during the Allied offensive during the Battles of Arras in April and May 1917 and during the German attack on the Allied Front from 21st March 1918.

Castle family grave St John's Churchyard Upper Hopton





Herbert Castle

Dewsbury Reporter 28th April 1917

HOPTON FAMILY'S DOUBLE LOSS.

SECOND SON FALLS.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Castle, Hopton Fold, Upper Hopton, Mirfield, received from the War Office on Wednesday morning an intimation that their son, Lance-Corpl. Herbert Castle (24), was killed on the 9th April. He is the second son to fall in the war, Pte. Joe Castle, the youngest son, giving up his life last September. Lance-Corpl. Herbert Castle was attached to the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, and was in camp with them when the war broke out. He crossed to France about two years ago, and in October, 1915, was wounded, but not seriously. He was an old boy of Hopton C.E. School, and was attached to the Upper Hopton Parish Church, being a member of the Bible class. In civil life he was employed as a miner at a Kirkheaton colliery. Another son, Harry Castle, is serving with the Royal Engineers



Herbert Castle

Dewsbury Reporter 16th Sept 1916 - See continuation next page

MANY MIRFIELD CASUALTIES.
ONE SON KILLED; ANOTHER WOUNDED
HOPTON FAMILY'S SEVERE BLOW.

Mirfield soldiers were in the thick of the fighting on September 3rd, and many casualties have been reported. The supreme sacrifice has been made by Pte. Joe Castle, of Wellington's Buildings, Battyeford, the youngest of three soldier brothers (whose photograph we reproduce), whilst another brother—Lance-Corpl. Herbert Castle—has been wounded. The third brother—Driver Harry Castle—is happily unhurt. Pte. Joe Castle was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Castle, of Upper Hopton, and was formerly employed at Lodge Mill Pit, Houses Hill, Kirkheaton. An old scholar of Upper Hopton Church School, he was an ex-choirboy and a member of the Bible class connected with the church. He was 21 years of age, and leaves a wife and child. A member of the local Territorials, he was in camp when the war broke out, and went to France along with the division in April, 1915. News of his death is contained in the following letter from Sergt. A. B. Beaman, R. E., which has been received by his parents: "I am deeply grieved to have to tell you that in the fighting on Sunday, September 3rd, Joe lost his life.



Pte. Joe Castle,
Duke of Wellington's,
Upper Hopton (killed).



Herbert Castle

Dewsbury Reporter 16th Sept 1916 - continued
Reports Herbert being hospitalised.

It appears he had managed to get back into the trench when a shell must have struck the earth behind him and three-parts buried him. He must have died from shock. Further, your Herbert got wounded and has been sent down the line. I am really writing for Harry, who is too much upset to write. I feel for you, his poor wife and child, and, believe me, he died doing his duty nobly and well. Harry and myself saw him as he was going up, and he gave Harry a rosary and said, 'If I don't come back this is for the bairn.' He also gave me his cap badge, saying that it was for the bairn. I have known the three lads for some time, and by losing Joe, and with Herbert being wounded, I have lost two of the best comrades a man could have."

Lance-Corpl. Herbert Castle, who is 23 years of age and was wounded on October 24th, writes from a hospital in Kent as follows: "I write to let you know I am wounded again, but am going on all right. It is not a bad wound—just about the same as I had in my left leg, so you have no need to bother. I shall not be long before I am coming home. You must let me know if Joe is going on all right as soon as you can, as I know a lot have gone under. I got wounded on Sunday morning, September 3rd. We were making a charge at five o'clock, and I got as far as their barbed wire. They then sent a gas shell over, and it nearly did me. I thought I was going to choke. I then got hit, and I got away as soon as I could. I don't know whether they took the German trenches or not."



Herbert Castle

Dewsbury Reporter 16th Sept 1916 - continued
Other Mirfield Soldiers

Pte. Charles Ayles, of Fenton Street, Mirfield, who is in hospital at Birmingham, has had a remarkable escape from being fatally injured, his prayer book which he was carrying in his left breast-pocket having probably saved his life. A bullet tore a hole in the book and scorched the leaves. He was formerly a teacher at St. Paul's Sunday School. His comrade, Pte. Herbert Furness, of Wood End Cottage, only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Furness, has also been wounded.

Two soldiers from Wood Bottom have been wounded—Sergt. John Clarkson and Pte. J. E. Senior. The first-named is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clarkson, and formerly worked at Hopton Mills. He was well-known as a member of the Hopton Mills cricket team. At the outbreak of the war he was a member of the National Reserve, having previously served with the Heckmondwike Artillery, and he volunteered for active service with the local Territorials. He was married and resided at Duke Street, Ravensthorpe, at the outbreak of the war. Pte. Senior is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Senior, and previously worked at Hopton Mills.

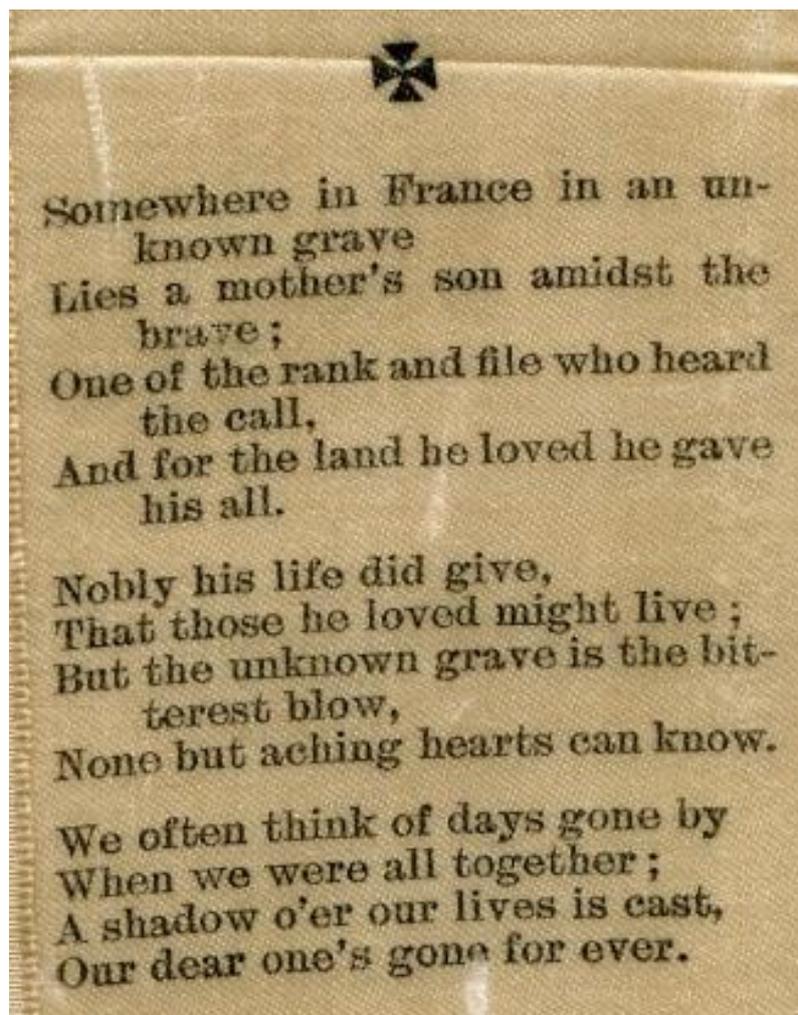
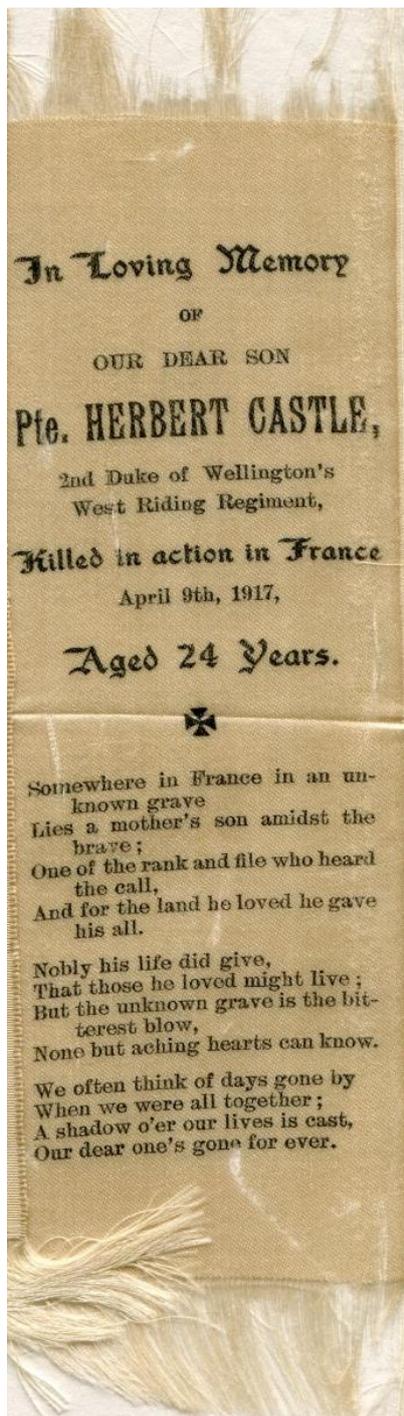
Company Sergt.-Major George Castle, son of the late Mr. R. Castle and Mrs. Castle, of Granny Lane, Mirfield, and a well-known local Territorial, was amongst those wounded in the hostilities on September 3rd, and is now in hospital at Chichester. His injuries consist of a bullet wound in the left shoulder and shrapnel splinters in the knees. His late father held a responsible position at Hopton Mills, where Sergt.-Major Castle—who is married and resides in Walker Street, Ravensthorpe—was employed as a tuner prior to the war. Another brother is also serving.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

Herbert's memorial sash





Herbert Castle

Upper Hopton Parish Magazine June 1917
(See Absent Friends)

ABSENT FRIENDS.

It was heart breaking news which came to Mr. Robert Castle and his family, that Herbert had been killed. It so happened that word came of this a few days before our appointed Sunday for a special Commemoration of those fallen in the War, and particular point was given to this Solemn Requiem by the sad event. And since then we have welcomed home Sergeant Harry Castle and had a Memorial Service, for which the Church was filled, to honour his brother's memory.

We wish all happiness to the gallant Sergeant on his marriage to Miss Ada Jackson. God grant he may return safely to his Bride.

Private Arthur Fisher has been in Hospital with a troublesome skin trouble, due to the food which the advance from the trenches involved ; but he writes happily from a Base Hospital in France.

Privates Walter Sykes and Arthur Loader, both of Northgate, are reported missing, and it is believed that they are Prisoners of War, but definite news of this is slow in coming to hand. Our respectful sympathy is extended to the families of these two, and may they soon get news.

World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

The photograph below shows some of the Castle family circa 1944. From left to right Peter Castle, John Castle, George Haigh, George William Castle, Herbert Sykes (walking stick), Oliver Castle (top hat).



World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



Herbert Castle

The marriage certificates of Emily and Laura Kilner (Mary Ellen Castle's grandchildren and Herbert's nieces).

Note that they were both married at St John's and were still living at 16 Hopton Fold. Harry Castle was the witness on both occasions, their father George Henry Kilner was either not in attendance or chose not to be a witness.

Emily Kilner's marriage to Ralph Whiteley of Cardigan Road, Thornhill Lees.

1929. Marriage solemnized at St John the Evangelist in the Parish of Upper Hopton in the County of York.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
315	Oct 5 1929	Ralph Whiteley	28	Bachelor	Blandist Miller	16 Cardigan Road Thornhill Lees	George Whiteley (deceased)	Carter
		Emily Kilner	26	Spinster	weaver.	16 The Fold Upper Hopton	George Henry Kilner	Miner

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after Banns by me, R.M. Hamlin

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Ralph Whiteley in the Presence of us, Harry Castle Harry Sykes Visa.
Emily Kilner

Laura Kilner's marriage to Harry Sykes of Cottage Row (Blank 7), Upper Hopton

1931. Marriage solemnized at St John the Evangelist in the Parish of Upper Hopton in the County of York.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
323	April 18 1931	Harry Sykes	27	Bachelor	Mill hand	Cottage Row Upper Hopton	Benjamin Sykes	Ferrier
		Laura Kilner	26	Spinster	✓	The Fold Upper Hopton	Harry Kilner	Miner

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after Banns by me, R.M. Hamlin

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Harry Sykes in the Presence of us, Harry Castle Albert Roberts Visa.
Laura Kilner