

THE CARPENTERS' COMPANY ROLL OF HONOUR 1914-1918

Loscombe Law Stable

Captain Loscombe Law Stable of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, died in action on 26 October 1914, aged 28.

He was born in 1886 at Wanstead Lodge, Wanstead, Essex, the son of Daniel Wintringham Stable, a Barrister and Liveryman of the Carpenters' Company, and his wife Gertrude. He was educated at Winchester College and after passing out of Sandhurst was commissioned into the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1907. In that same year he became a Freeman of the Carpenters' Company, becoming a Liveryman in 1909. A fine polo player, he represented his battalion in many matches during his six years' service in Burma and India. On the outbreak of war, he joined the British Expeditionary Force in 19 Brigade, seeing action near Quievrain on 24th August 1914 and joining the Retreat from Mons.



He became Lieutenant in 1911 and was promoted to Captain in October 1914, a few days before his death. He was killed near Armentieres, France having left his trench to bring in a soldier who was lying wounded and exposed to heavy fire.

Some of his letters home were published by his family and are found at the Imperial War Museum. A letter to his mother from his Commanding Officer reads: "He was a most excellent soldier, fearless to a degree, and always the most cheerful of companions, and was therefore most popular with his brother officers, and his death is most deeply regretted by all ranks. He received his death wound, so it was reported to me, going to the assistance of one of the men who was wounded and lying outside of the trenches. This was just like him, as he was always a model of unselfishness and thoughtfulness for others."

Henry Louis Rosher

Lt Col Henry Louis Rosher died on 14 April 1915 at Shaiba, Mesopotamia (now Iraq) aged 49. He was born in Southgate, Middlesex in 1866, the son of Alfred Rosher, a Liveryman and later Master of the Company (in 1888) and his wife Louisa.

He was educated at Tonbridge Grammar School and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Dorsetshire Regiment in 1885. He became a Freeman and Liveryman of the Carpenters' Company on 4 August 1891. His postings included Malta and Egypt, where he married Lilian Hall in 1893, and then to India later that year. From 1897 he was stationed in Burma as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General (1897-1902) during the Tirah Campaign to regain control of the Khyber Pass on the North West Frontier. Whilst stationed there he was promoted to Major in 1904 and Lieutenant-Colonel in 1906.

At the outbreak of war, the 2nd Battalion Dorsetshire with Lt Col Rosher the Commanding Officer was part of the 16th Indian Brigade in Poona. In November 1914 the Battalion landed in Fao in the Persian Gulf as part of Indian Expeditionary Force D. The strategically important town of Basra was swiftly taken. After a number of skirmishes with the Ottoman and Arab forces, a hard fought infantry battle at Shaiba near Basra over three days in April 1915 proved decisive. On the third day the Dorsets launched a bayonet charge on the Ottoman lines that caused the rest of the Indian troops to follow, overwhelming the Ottoman forces. Lt-Col Rosher was killed at the head of his regiment.

Herbert Phillips Fletcher

Major Herbert Phillips Fletcher D.S.O. died on 3rd August 1916 at the Royal Flying Corps Hospital in Bryanston Square, London, from injuries sustained that same day as the result of an aeroplane accident whilst on active service.



He was born in 1872, the son of Professor Banister Fletcher (Master of the Carpenters' Company in 1889) and his wife Eliza. He was educated at King's College, London and trained as an architect under his father, becoming a partner in the firm of Banister Fletcher and Sons in 1893. Herbert Phillips Fletcher became a Freeman and Liveryman of the Carpenters' Company in April 1893, and in the same year became the first Director of the Company's Trades Training Schools (now the Building Crafts College) at Great Titchfield Street in London. He was appointed Surveyor to the Company in 1897 and held both positions until his death.

With his elder brother Banister Flight Fletcher, Herbert Phillips Fletcher co-authored a number of technical works and gained engineering experience on road, sewerage and waterworks projects, becoming an Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1897. He was admitted barrister-at-law of the Middle Temple in 1901 and married Lydia Lindrea in 1908.

On the outbreak of war his regiment, the 1st County of London (Middlesex, Duke of Cambridge's Hussars) was sent to Egypt where he was seconded to work with the French in reconnaissance on seaplanes. Major Fletcher was awarded the Croix de Guerre, both military and naval, for conspicuous bravery under fire. He went on to command a British Observers' School before returning to England to obtain his pilot's certificate with the Royal Flying Corps. He was awarded the D.S.O. in August 1916.

William Henry Bartlett



Lieutenant William Henry Bartlett was killed in action in France, September 14th 1916 aged 38. He was born in Croydon in 1879, the second son of Charles Bartlett (Master of the Carpenters' Company in 1909), and his wife Mary Ann (nee Easty). His father was initially a banker but subsequently took holy orders and became the vicar of All Saints, Brighton. He was educated at Brighton College and in 1896 went up to St. John's College, Cambridge to read Law but left before taking his degree, becoming articled to a firm of Brighton Solicitors. He became a Freeman of the Carpenters' Company in May 1909 and by 1911 had emigrated to Canada, where he served as a Civil Engineer with the Manitoba Hydrographical Survey Board. He was closely

involved in the Scout movement, winning Silver Wolf Medal for his services to the movement as Provincial Secretary to the Boy Scouts in Manitoba.

Bartlett enlisted in the Fort Garry Horse in May 1915 before transferring to the Canadian Infantry. He departed for Europe on the SS Olympic (sister ship to the Titanic) in April 1916 and was posted to the 27th (City of Winnipeg) Battalion, Manitoba Regiment, which formed part of the 2nd Canadian Division on 7th July 1916. His first action was the Battle of Flers-Courcelette in September 1916, the first battle in which tanks were used in action. However on the evening of September 14th 1916, the day before the attack was to commence, Lieutenant Bartlett was killed whilst crawling to the jumping off trench. Walter Bartlett has no known grave but his name is commemorated, along with the names of 11,000 other Canadians, on the Vimy Memorial, France. The Memorial Cross sent to his family on his death is now in the Brighton College Archive.

Robert Lancaster

Lieutenant Robert Lancaster died in action in France on 28 April 1917 aged 36. He was born in 1880, the son of Liveryman Sir William and Lady Lancaster of Putney. He was educated at Charterhouse School and Leipzig University before returning to England to work in the City. He became a Freeman of the Company in 1903 and a Liveryman in 1905. He married Clare Manger in 1906 and their only child Osbert Lancaster became a well-known cartoonist and Master of the Company in 1973.

Robert Lancaster joined the 7th Battalion Norfolk Regiment which served on the Western Front from May 1915 as part of the 35th Brigade in the 12th (Eastern) Division. On 9-10 April 1917 the Battalion took part in the Battle of Arras, successfully taking gun-pits and trenches close to the Fuechy-Wancourt road. The battalion returned to Arras for training and reorganisation and returned to the front line trenches at Monchy Wood on the 25 April. Three days later the battalion was part of an attack to capture rifle trenches and consolidate an advance line, but was held back by machine gun fire and uncut wire. Lieutenant Robert Lancaster was killed in this action on 28 April. He is buried at the Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery, Wancourt.

Lacy Hipwood Straw



Private Lacy Hipwood Straw died in France on 23 May 1917 aged 34 from wounds sustained in action on the 15 May. He was born in Greenwich, London, in 1882, the son of Liveryman Edwin Henry Straw and his wife Eliza. He was educated privately and at Pitman's College, and subsequently joined the staff at Liberty, Regent Street. He became a Freeman and Liveryman of the Company in 1904. He married Minnie Louise Woodman in 1913 and had two sons. His son Edward John Straw became a Freeman and Liveryman in 1935.

He served with the Men's Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) (35th London) and worked at the Fairlawn VAD Hospital in south-east London until November 1915 when he joined the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from October 1916 but was taken ill with rheumatic fever in December and invalided to the hospital at Camier. For 3 months he was stationed at No 5 Convalescent Camp where he was appointed musician to the Scottish Churches Hut. He rejoined the regiment in April 1917 but died in May at no. 49 Casualty Clearing Station from wounds received in action. He is buried at Achiet-Le-Grand cemetery near Arras.

Utten Lamont Hooke



Lieutenant-Colonel Utten Lamont Hooke was killed in action on 21 June 1917 at Roeux, France. He was born in Croydon in 1881, the son of John Hooke (Master of the Company in 1913) and his wife Avis, and educated at Hurstpierpoint. He joined the 1st Volunteer Battalion The Queens (Royal West Surrey Regiment) becoming a Lieutenant in August 1906 and in the same year became a Freeman and Liveryman of the Carpenters' Company by patrimony. He was appointed Captain and Instructor of Musketry in 1907 and transferred to the 4th Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) in April 1908, becoming Major in 1910. He married Enid Brodie in 1912 and their son Lewis Brodie Hooke became a liveryman in 1946.

The third battalion of the Fourth Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment was established at Windsor in April 1915 and the newly promoted Lieutenant-Colonel Utten Lamont Hooke was appointed commanding officer. The battalion left for the Western Front near Arras in May 1917 for training in trench warfare, and was soon sent forward to the fighting line. On the 21 June 1917 Colonel Hooke was killed by a shell near the Chemical Works at Roeux. He is buried at the Level Crossing Cemetery, Fampoux.

Robert Algernon Stuckey



Private Robert Algernon Stuckey died on 27 Jul 1917 aged 46 of heat stroke whilst on active service at Sadiyah in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). He was born on 26 July 1871 in Ealing, Middlesex, the son of Robert Bosworth Stuckey, a Liveryman of the Carpenters Company and Hannah Eliza Stuckey. His grandfather Robert James Stuckey was Master of the Company in 1864. He went up to Queens' College, Cambridge in 1889 and became a Freeman of the Carpenters' Company in 1892 by patrimony, and a Liveryman in 1894.

The family had been associated with the building trade since the early 19th century, and Robert went into partnership with A. R. Aston in King's Cross London as Stuckey and Aston, Builders and Estate and Insurance Agents, until 1908. He married Eva Smyth on 9 September 1908 in Hendon, and had one child Derek, Master of the Carpenters' Company in 1974.

He enlisted when he was over age with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers 8th Battalion (the upper age for conscription was 41). The Battalion was formed as part of the First New Army and joined the 13th (Western Division) which was deployed to Mesopotamia in February 1916 as reinforcements for the relief of Kut. The relief effort failed, and in December the division advanced again on Kut, driving the Turkish forces from the town, and going on to take part in the capture of Baghdad in March 1917. The harsh climate conditions produced large losses in addition to battle casualties, with about as many men dying of disease as were killed in action. The Regiment's war diary records that in July 1917 alone eight men died of heat stroke whilst stationed at Sadiyah, including Private Stuckey who was buried at Kut War Cemetery, Iraq.

Stanley Preston

Major Stanley Preston died in Belgium on 25 Sep 1917 aged 35 whilst on active service with the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own). He was born in 1882 in South Hampstead, London, to Alfred Charles Preston, Master of the Company in 1907, and his wife Clara. He joined the Middlesex Regiment in May 1905 and became a Freeman of the Carpenters' Company in January 1907, and Liveryman in March 1908. In 1910 he was posted to India where he was closely involved with the organisation of the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Calcutta in 1912. He was posted to Aden in 1912, where he married Amy Sells.

In March 1917 he was promoted Acting Major and was fighting with the 1st Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment during the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele).

On 20th September fighting at the Battle of Menin Road Ridge had advanced the British line to the Menin Road. At 6.30 pm on the night of the 24th, the 1st Middlesex moved up to relieve the front line accompanied by shell fire. Reports to the Battalion Headquarters were slow in arriving as many of the guides had lost their way in the craters and shell holes, telephone lines were cut and shell fire was increasing in intensity. At 5.15 a.m. a huge German bombardment from 20 heavy and 44 field batteries began and under cover of thick mist and the heavy barrage the Germans advanced across No Man's Land. The first attack on "A" Company was repulsed but at 6.30 a.m. another attack began with hand-to-hand fighting ensuing. "A" Company was losing heavily, and eventually fell back about 150 yards. In the fighting the Company Commander, Captain Preston, was killed; all the officers of the front two Companies were either killed or missing. Major Preston is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing.