

Private George Edward Boynton[©]

Regimental number: 2780

1/5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, Territorial Force

born: 18 September 1893–died: 22 July 1916

“Arise. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord” was inscribed on Private George Edward Boynton’s gravestone in Bailleul Communal Cemetery;¹ he was one of 704,803 soldiers from the British Isles who died in or because of the First World War.²

George came from a family of agricultural workers. Both his father and maternal grandfather were farm labourers. He was born on 18 September 1893 in Rotsea, East Riding of Yorkshire, England,³ the third child of James William Boynton (1865–1943)⁴ and Jane Burks (née Roe) Boynton (1867–1943).⁵ Both his parents had been born in Yorkshire; James in Wetwang and Jane in Bishop Wilton. In 1891, James was working as a farm servant and boarding with the Roe family in a four-room house in Fridaythorpe, Yorkshire. Jane was living there with her father Thomas and stepmother Sarah and working outside the home as a domestic servant.⁶ James and Jane married on 18 April 1891 after the banns were posted in the Anglican Church of St. Mary, Fridaythorpe.⁷ When George was born, the family was living in Rotsea, a hamlet about 25 km from Fridaythorpe.

The couple had 13 children, 5 of whom survived to adulthood. The first child, Arthur Alfred Roe (1889–1977),⁸ was followed by Thomas William (1892–1896),⁹ **George Edward**, Frank Ogram (1894–1977),¹⁰ Tom (1896–1896),¹¹ Mary Jane (1897–1898),¹² Maud Elizabeth (1898–1989),¹³ John William (1899–1982),¹⁴ Tom (1901–1940),¹⁵ Fred (1902–1902),¹⁶ Lilian (1903–1910),¹⁷ Percy (1907–1907)¹⁸ and finally Raymond (1909–2000).¹⁹

In 1901, George was 7 years old and living with his parents, four siblings, his grandfather Thomas Roe, and his uncle Thomas Ogram Roe, at Rotsea Cottage, Rotsea. The men were employed as agricultural labourers. The cottage in which they lived was probably provided by the farmer for whom they worked. The older children, Arthur, George and Frank, attended school, while Maud and John remained at home.²⁰

Yorkshire County was noted for its agricultural production powered by horses. In 1911, 60% of the county’s male population worked on farms.²¹ That year, the Boynton family was living in Coopslanding Cottage, a five-room house at Hutton Cranswick, about 5 km from Rotsea. Only four children were still living with their parents: Maud, John, and Tom attended school, and toddler Raymond was cared for at home. George’s mother performed domestic chores, and his father, grandfather and uncle Thomas Ogram were employed as farm labourers.²²

The older boys, Arthur, George and Frank, probably left home at an early age to work on farms. Arthur was working as a farm labourer when he enlisted in the East York Regiment in 1908. In 1911, he was a private stationed at the Salamanca Barracks, Aldershot.²³ That year, 17-year-old George and his younger brother Frank were employed as horse lads but on different farms.²⁴

George was living on a farm in Rotsea with Thomas Snowball (the farm’s foreman), his family, one servant girl and seven other young men. Under an annual verbal contract, he worked for room and board from 4 a.m. to dusk, caring for his assigned horses and working the fields. On the feast of Martinmas (11 November), he would be paid for his year’s labour and would attend a hiring fair to

negotiate the following year's employment. Each year, as he gained experience, he advanced up the farm labourers' hierarchy.²⁵

When war was declared on 4 August 1914, George was probably still working as a farm labourer. Like many others at the time he was caught up in the patriotic fervour that swept the country. He enlisted in the 1st/5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment (a.k.a. YORKS or Green Howards), Territorial Force (TF), just after Martinmas in 1914, at the recruiting office in Driffield, Yorkshire.²⁶

The Yorkshire Regiment's official name was Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment). During the First World War, it was referred to as the Yorkshire Regiment. It was an infantry regiment of the British Army that was first raised in 1688. Over the years it was re-titled a number of times, becoming Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) in 1902. At the outbreak of the war, it consisted of five battalions: two Regular, one Special Reserve and two Territorial (the 4th and 5th battalions). The 5th Battalion, TF, in which George served, became the 1st/5th Battalion when the Regiment expanded to 25 battalions. In total, 65,000 men served in the regiment during the First World War; 9,200 died and 24,000 were wounded.²⁷

During the following months, George probably trained at camps near Newcastle upon Tyne. On 17 April 1915, the battalion's officers and soldiers of other ranks (ORs), which included Private George Edward Boynton, travelled by train to Folkestone, Kent, to board HMT (His Majesty's Transport) *Onward*. The ship docked at Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, at 1:20 a.m. on 18 April. The battalion was part of the York and Durham Brigade, Northumbrian Division, British Expeditionary Force (BEF).²⁸ (In May 1915, the brigade was renamed the 150th [York and Durham] Brigade and the Northumbrian Division became the 50th [Northumbrian] Division.)²⁹

The usual procedure for a battalion after it arrived in France or Flanders was to camp in a selected area for additional training before moving to the battlefield.³⁰ The 1st/5th Battalion did not have this introductory period. On 22 April, it was stationed at Steenvoorde, France. It travelled the next day by motor bus to Vlamertinghe, Belgium, and then marched to Camp "A" near Ypres (a.k.a. Leper). While there, the men heard heavy firing. The Second Battle of Ypres, 22 April–25 May 1915 (a series of four separate battles, the Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge 22–23 April, the Battle of St. Julien 24 April–5 May, the Battle of Frezenberg 8–13 May, and the Battle of Bellewaarde 24–25 May), had commenced.

The 1st/5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, TF, saw action in the last three battles. Although inexperienced, poorly equipped, and with little knowledge of the area, the battalion was deployed to reinforce the BEF's line. As it marched into the conflict in the early hours of 24 April, the men saw numerous soldiers, suffering from the effects of gas poisoning, heading in the opposite direction.

During the Second Battle of Ypres, the enemy used poison gas as a weapon for the first time—on 22 April and then again on 24 April 1915. The gas affected the lungs and eyes, causing respiratory problems, blindness and even death. The loss of so many soldiers in these two attacks created a large gap in the BEF line. Although it sustained heavy casualties, the Canadian Division, which had been in the trenches near St. Julien since 1 April 1915, was holding the line against the enemy's advance.³¹

At 1:15 a.m. on 24 April, the battalion experienced shell fire for the first time as it dug into the banks of the Yser Canal north of Ypres in support of the 2nd Zouaves, a French regiment. At noon, the battalion received orders to cross the canal and move to St. Jean to support the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade. Finding the village in flames, it skirmished under heavy rifle and shell fire across

open country to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade's Headquarters, arriving at 3:00 p.m. at Chateau du Nord, a farm complex (a.k.a. Mouse Trap Farm and Shell Trap Farm).³² Communication channels were disrupted by the conflict and the battalion lost contact with its superior command in the York and Durham Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel Garnet B. Hughes, Brigade Major, 3rd Canadian Brigade, who had orders to only use the battalion if it was absolutely necessary,³³ took command and ordered it to reinforce the trenches and to be ready to counterattack when necessary.

On 25 April at 3:30 a.m., the 1st/5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment was ordered to advance to Fortuin to be part of the counterattack on St. Julien. It and another battalion (5th Durham Light Infantry Battalion) did so unaware that the attack time "zero hour" had been changed. Under heavy bombardment, it arrived at 5 a.m. at Fortuin but was unsure how to proceed. Once more in contact with its superior command, it was ordered to hold its position at all cost. It went into trenches along the east side of the St. Jean–St. Julien road. There was no shelter for "A" and "D" company, which dug in along the roadside hedge bottom.

At 6 a.m. it advanced across open fields under "murderous" shell fire to support the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers. En route, a party of 25 men investigated a farm house. Captain G. C. Barker and a lance corporal were killed by a concealed enemy machine gun unit. The battalion reached the Royal Irish Fusiliers just as it was retreating, so it too fell back. At nightfall, the 1st/5th Battalion attended to its wounded and buried its dead.

During the next days, the battalion relieved the London Regiment, entrenched, and held the line. At midnight on 28 April, it was relieved and moved back to Steenvoorde. In this short time period, from 24 April to 28 April, it suffered 131 casualties: one officer killed, one wounded; 29 ORs killed, 100 wounded.³⁴

On 4 May at Steenvoorde, Sir John French, Commander in Chief, BEF, addressed the 1st/5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, and the other battalions in the York and Durham Brigade. He thanked the men for their splendid work and acknowledged that the brigade had been sent into a situation for which it had not been prepared. He said that because of the "villainous proceedings," he had been obliged to send them to take the place of trained troops in the trenches and implied that the brigade would have been successful in its mission had it received better support. He remarked that today's parade had shown that the brigade had recovered quickly, demonstrated a soldier-like front and appeared ready to go into action immediately if required; this was the highest example of patriotism.³⁵

The 1st/5th Battalion saw more action during May. It marched through Ypres as it burned during the night of 11 May, the normally dark city illuminated by flames. The road was strewn with debris from the falling walls of the burning buildings. During the next 14 days, the battalion's soldiers participated in offensive and defensive tactics, advancing and holding the line, in constant danger from shelling, snipers and gas attacks. The Battle of Ypres came to an end with the BEF giving ground but still holding Ypres.

The new defensive line was a semicircle with a 5-km radius around Ypres. The enemy was in trenches only 182 to 548 m away. During the rest of 1915, George experienced day-to-day trench warfare, shelling, sniper fire, endless noise, horrid stench and small skirmishes, followed by rest periods behind the lines. At the time, proper dugouts were rare. George stood, ate and fought knee deep in mud.

The battalion remained in the Ypres Salient during June and early July. On 17 July, it marched from Dranouter, Belgium, to Armentières, France. For the next four months it held the line in trenches around Armentières. On 12 November, the battalion marched 16 km to Outtersteene, France (4 km west of Bailleul), where it engaged in training exercises until 18 December. On 19 December 1915, it moved by train to Poperinghe, Belgium. Just as the train arrived, six enemy shells exploded 91 m from the station. Fortunately no battalion member was injured.

The men spent the holiday season in mud-filled trenches near Hill 60. Although it was described as a quiet time, on 24 December, three ORs were killed and two officers and two ORs wounded. On December 25, Captain G. J. Scott and two ORs were killed by sniper fire. On 31 December 1915, the strength of 1st/5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, TF, was 27 officers and 796 ORs.³⁶

From January to July 1916, George was involved in attack and defensive tactics in various battle locations within the Ypres Salient area. On 2 March, the battalion took part in a demonstration by the 50th Division to distract the enemy while another division attacked from a different area. The enemy responded with a storm of shrapnel and rifle fire, resulting in the battalion suffering 36 casualties; one officer killed, three wounded; 5 ORs killed, 27 wounded. On 4 April 1916, *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph* listed George as wounded.³⁷ He most likely was injured in mid-March. From 18 to 24 March, 2 ORs were killed and 12 injured.

The date of George's return to duty was not recorded. He might have been with the battalion at the end of April when it marched to Eecke, France, via Locre, Bailleul, Méteren and Flêtre. The battalion was to spend the month of May in divisional training exercises such as musketry, signalling, and range finding. However, from 12 to 20 May, three companies from the battalion (approximately 450 men) were sent to La Clytte [De Klijte, Belgium] to work at night on the Vierstraat Switch, a new trench system. The men returned to Eecke on 21 May. (During a sporting competition, "C" company won the divisional tug-of-war contest. George served in No. 12 Platoon, "C" Company.)³⁸ On 27 May, the Division was inspected by General Sir H.C.O. Plumer, commander of the Second Army.

In June, the battalion was still in trenches near Locre. On 17 June, the enemy attacked again with poison gas. The new gas helmets proved effective, reducing the number of casualties. Rest periods were spent at the Kimmel Shelters. However, there was little rest time. The men were assigned to nightly work groups, which were not only exhausting but also dangerous. In the period from 20 to 30 June, while assigned to work parties, 2 ORs were killed and 13 wounded.

In the early hours of 10 July, the battalion took the war to the enemy; three officers, eight non-commissioned officers and 25 ORs raided an enemy-held crater located west of Petit Bois. In the ensuing fight, eight of them were wounded. However, they killed 15 enemy soldiers and captured one. After a four-day rest period, the battalion was back in the trenches enduring heavier than normal enemy artillery fire. The battalion's total casualties for July were two officers killed, five wounded, one missing; 8 ORs killed, 49 wounded. One of the wounded ORs was Private George Edward Boynton, who on Friday, 21 July, was shot in the throat.³⁹ He was taken to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (CCCS) at Bailleul, France. A casualty clearing station was a medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who could not be adequately treated were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.⁴⁰ He was one of 284 injured men admitted on 21 July and one of nine who died on Saturday 22 July.⁴¹ His death was recorded by the No. 1 CCCS chaplain.⁴²

Private George Edward Boynton was buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Grave/Memorial Reference II. F. 44.⁴³ Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was

occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several casualty clearing stations, including No. 1 CCCS, were quartered there. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918; they occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when soldiers' remains were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.

The officer-in-charge of 12 Platoon, "C" Company, Yorkshire Regiment, wrote to George's mother on 25 July 1916. He said that George was an excellent soldier, popular and very much missed by the platoon. Notice of George's death and the contents of the letter were published in *The Driffield Times* on Saturday, 5 August. His parents also reported that the *Dead March* was played at the parish church in George's memory.⁴⁴

On 6 November 1916, George's father James received his savings, £10 17s, and on 3 October 1919, a war gratuity of £7.⁴⁵ His mother Jane applied for a Dependant's Pension on 5 March 1920.⁴⁶

George was posthumously awarded the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre), the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the 1914–15 Star (for serving in a theatre of war between 4 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).⁴⁷ As next of kin, his father most likely received a memorial plaque and a parchment scroll.

The Boynton family's world continued without George. His brothers Alfred and Frank, who also served in the BEF, survived the war. They and the other siblings married and raised their families in close proximity to each other in Yorkshire. On the eve of another war in 1939, only one, Raymond, was employed in the agricultural industry. George's father James had retired from agricultural work and he and Jane were living with her brother Thomas Ogram Roe in Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire.⁴⁸ Three of George's brothers were also living with their families in Beverley: Frank, a foreman in the coal department, Beverley-Hull Cooperative Society,⁴⁹ Tom, a roadman (a labourer who repairs roads),⁵⁰ and Raymond, a farm manager.⁵¹ George's sister Maud and brother John were living with their families in Haltemprice, East Riding of Yorkshire. Maud had married Francis Coverdale in 1925.⁵² John was employed as a maintenance engineer and a special constable.⁵³ George's older brother Alfred Arthur Roe, a railway porter, lived the farthest away with his family in York, about 48 km from Beverley.⁵⁴

Private George Edward Boynton's sacrifice was not forgotten. His name was recorded in the Regiment's Roll of Honour housed at the parish church in Richmond, North Yorkshire.⁵⁵ In 1921, he was one of 29 men remembered on a Cross erected in Hutton Cranswick to "commemorate the brave men . . . who died for us."⁵⁶ More recently, he has been listed on the website, *Remembrance – The Yorkshire Regiment, First World War*.⁵⁷

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¹ "Headstone Documents," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/198487/george-edward-boynton/#&gid=2&pid=2>: accessed 10 January 2022), entry for G. E. Boynton, Service number: 2780

² "Some British Army Statistics of the Great War," *The Long, Long Trail: Researching soldiers of the British Army in the Great War 1914–1919* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/some-british-army-statistics-of-the-great-war>: accessed 3 January 2022)

³ "Copy of an entry of birth," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/order_history.asp: accessed 10 January 2022), entry for George Edward Boynton, GRO Reference: 1893, 4th Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 9D, Page: 323, Name and

surname of father: James William Boynton, Rank or profession of father: Farm labourer, Name and maiden surname of mother: Jane Burk Boynton formerly Roe, When registered: 18 October 1893

⁴ "England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 January 2022), entry for James William Boynton, Baptism date: 5 June 1865, Baptism place: Wetwang with Fimber, York, England, FHL Film number: 991186; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 5 January 2022), entry for James W. Boynton, Registration date: 1943, Registration quarter: Apr–May–Jun, Registration district: Holderness, Inferred county: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 75, Age at death: 77

⁵ "England Births & Baptisms Wales 1538–1975," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for Jane Burkes [sic] Roe, Baptism year: 1867, Place: Pocklington, County: Yorkshire, Father's first name: Thomas, Father's last name: Roe, Mother's first name: Mary, Mother's last name: Roe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 January 2022), entry for Jane B. Boynton, Registration date: 1943, Registration quarter: Apr–May–Jun, Registration district: Holderness, Inferred county: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 120, Age at death: 75. Note: Jane's middle name on some documents was difficult to interpret and was transcribed as Burk, Burkes and Bank.

⁶ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 16 January 2022), entry for James Wm Boynton, Registration district: Pocklington, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 6, Piece: 3899, Folio: 86, Page: 38. Note: Jane Roe's son, Arthur Alfred Roe, was living with the neighbouring Pallerick family.

⁷ "Yorkshire Marriages," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 January 2022), entry for James William Boynton, Marriage date: 18 April 1891, Marriage place: Fridaythorpe, Yorkshire, Spouse first name: Jane Bank [sic], Spouse last name: Roe

⁸ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 4 January 2022), entry for Arthur Alfred Roe, GRO Reference: 1889, M Quarter in Pocklington, Volume: 09D, Page: 77, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 January 2022), entry for Arthur Alfred Roe, Registration date: 1977, Registration quarter: Jul–Aug–Sep, Registration district: York, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 2d, Page: 1686, Age at death: 84; "UK, British Army World War 1 Pension Records 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 January 2022), entry for Arthur Alfred Roe, Regimental number: 4334128. Note: Arthur referred to William Boynton as his stepfather.

⁹ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Thomas William, GRO Reference: 1892, M Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 306, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Thomas William Boynton, GRO Reference: 1896, M Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 205, Age: 3

¹⁰ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for Frank Ogram Boynton, GRO Reference: 1894, D Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 339, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 January 2022), entry for Frank O Boynton, Registration date: 1922, Registration district: Beverley, Inferred county: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 221, Spouse: Edith Stephenson; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 January 2022), entry for Frank Ogram Boynton, Registration date: 1977, Registration quarter: Jan–Feb–Mar, Registration district: Hull, Inferred county: Humberside, Volume: 7, Page: 0815, Age at death: 81

¹¹ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for Tom Boynton, GRO Reference: 1896, J Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 339, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "GRO Indexes, 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 28 January 2022), entry for Tom Boynton, GRO Reference: 1896, J Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 205, Age: 0

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- ¹² "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for Mary Jane Boynton, GRO Reference: 1897, J Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 336, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 28 January 2022), entry for Mary Jane Boynton, GRO Reference: 1898, S Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 237, Age: 1
- ¹³ "GRO Indexes 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for Maud Elizabeth Boynton, GRO Reference: 1898, S Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 348, Mother's maiden surname: Burkes Roe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 January 2022), entry for Maud Elizabeth Coverdale, Registration date: 1989, Registration quarter: Registration district: Beverley, Inferred county: Humberside, Volume: 7, Page: 98
- ¹⁴ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for John William Boynton, GRO Reference: 1899, D Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 346, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 January 2022), entry for John William Boynton, Registration date: 1982, Registration quarter: Jan-Feb-Mar, Registration district: Hull, Inferred county: Humberside, Volume: 7, Page: 1020, Age: 82
- ¹⁵ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for Tom Boynton, GRO Reference: 1901, S Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 371, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 14 January 2022), entry for Tom Boynton, Registration date: 1940, Registration quarter: Jul-Aug-Sep, Registration district: Holderness, Inferred county: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 189, Age: 39
- ¹⁶ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Fred Boynton, GRO Reference: 1902, S Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 361, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "GRO Indexes 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Fred Boynton, GRO Reference: 1902, D Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 227, Age: 0
- ¹⁷ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Lilian Boynton, GRO Reference: 1903, D Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 340, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "GRO Indexes, 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Lilian Boynton, GRO Reference: 1910, M Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 227, Age: 6
- ¹⁸ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Percy Boynton, GRO Reference: 1907, M Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 341, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "GRO Indexes, 1837–1957 Deaths," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 8 January 2022), entry for Percy Boynton, GRO Reference: 1907, J Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 203, Age: 0
- ¹⁹ "GRO Indexes, 1837–1918 Births," *General Register Office* (https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp: accessed 6 January 2022), entry for Raymond Boynton, GRO Reference: 1909, J Quarter in Driffield, Volume: 09D, Page: 353, Mother's maiden surname: Roe; "England & Wales, Death Index, 1989–2019," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 January 2022), entry for Raymond Boynton, Birth date: 21 Mar 1909, Last residence: Hornsea, Yorkshire, England, Death date: 1 Jan 2000, Age: 91
- ²⁰ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 February 2022), entry for George E. Boynton, Registration district: Driffield, Sub-registration district: Foston, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 3, Household schedule number: 3, Piece: 4517, Folio: 34, Page: 4; Stephen Counce, "Twentieth-Century Farm Servants: The Horselads of the East Riding of Yorkshire," *Agricultural History Review* 39, no. 2 (1991), p. 147, *JSTOR* (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40274811>: accessed 17 January 2022)

²¹ Stephen Counce, op. cit., p. 163

²² "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 19 January 2022), entry for James William Boynton, Registration district number: 525, Sub-registration district: Driffield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 02, Piece: 28857

²³ "UK, British Army World War 1 Pension Records 1914–920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 10 January 2022), entry for Arthur Alfred Roe, Regimental number: 4334128; "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 19 January 2022), entry for Arthur Alfred Roe, Registration district: , Registration district number: 34, Sub-registration district: Aldershot, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 3123

²⁴ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 19 January 2022), entry for Frank Boynton, Registration district number: 525, Sub-registration district: Driffield, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 03, Piece: 28858

²⁵ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 19 January 2022), entry for George Boynton, Registration district: Driffield , Registration district number: 523, Sub-district: Foston, Sub-district number: 1, Enumeration district: 3, Household schedule number: 74, Piece: 28853; Stephen Counce, *Agricultural History Review*, pp. 143–166

²⁶ "Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 22 January 2022), entry for George Edward Boynton, Service number: 2780; "Rotsea Man Killed," *The Driffield Times*, 5 August 1916, p. 3, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 20 January 2022). Note: Because George Edward Boynton's service record did not survive the 1940 fire at the Army Records Office in Walworth, London, his military career was pieced together using a number of sources. In his obituary, his mother mentioned that she had three sons serving in the BEF. Most likely, Frank was the other son.

²⁷ *Remembrance – The Yorkshire Regiment, First World War* (<https://www.wy1-yorkshires.org.uk/html-files/introduction.htm>: accessed 27 January 2022); "Unit History: Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment)," *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/5169/alexandra-princess-of-wales-own-yorkshire-regiment>: accessed 3 May 2022); "Green Howards," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_Howards: accessed 29 January 2022). Note: The regiment was renamed the Green Howards in 1921.

²⁸ "5 Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, War Diaries, 1915 April–1918 July," *National Archives, Kew* (<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7354722>: accessed 8 February 2022), Reference: WO-95-2836/4. Note: Unless otherwise identified, all information about the 5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment's movements during this time period comes from this source. Attached after the entry for 31 January 1916 were extracts from Private J. R. Stevenson's (2234) personal diary for 23 April 1915 to 5 January 1916.

²⁹ "Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) ("Green Howards")," *The Long, Long Trail: Researching soldiers of the British Army in the Great War 1914–1919* (<https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/alexandra-princess-of-wales-own-yorkshire-regiment-green-howards>: accessed 4 March 2022)

³⁰ Everard Wyrall, *Fiftieth Division: 1914–1919*, (digital edition converted and distributed by Andrews UK Ltd., 2012), p. 6, *Google Books* (<https://www.google.com/search?tbm=bks&q=Fiftieth+Division>: accessed 19 March 2022)

³¹ "St. Julien," *canadiansoldiers.com* (<https://www.canadiansoldiers.com/history/battlehonours/westernfront/stjulien.htm>: accessed 1 March 2022)

³² Note: The BEF troops gave descriptive names such as Shrapnel Corner, Sanctuary Woods, Glasgow Cross, Fort Halifax, to their trenches and other locations.

³³ "War Diaries - 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade = Journal de guerre – 3e Brigade d'infanterie canadienne 1915/04/01–1915/09/30," *Library and Archives Canada* (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=fonandcol&IdNumber=2005786&new=-8585553583509463454>: accessed 4 March 2022), entry on p. 12, Appendix A attached at the end of April 1915.

³⁴ "5 Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, War Diaries, 1915 April–1918 July," *National Archives, Kew*, entry for 28 April 1915; Everard Wyrall, *Fiftieth Division: 1914–1919*, chap. III, "The Battles of Ypres, 1915," Geoffrey

Powell and John S. W. Powell, *The History of the Green Howards; Three Hundred Years of Service* (Barnsley, South Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Military, 2015), chap. 6, "The First World War and its Prelude: 1902–15" and chap. 7, "The First World War 1915–18"; Andrew Rawson, *British Expeditionary Force: The 1915 Campaign* (Barnsley, South Yorkshire: Pen & Sword Military, 2015), chap. 5, "Hang on at All Costs – Ypres Salient, 25 April to 3 May," *Google Books* (<https://books.google.com>: accessed 4 March 2022)

³⁵ "What Sir John French Said," *Berwickshire News and General Advertiser*, May 18, 1915, p. 5, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 4 March 2022)

³⁶ "UK, WW1 War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 March 2022), entry for Various (infantry brigades), 50th Division, Piece 2832/1–3: 150 Infantry Brigade: Headquarters (1915 July–1917 July), entry for 31 December 1915

³⁷ "Roll of Honour, N.C.O.'s and Men, Wounded, Yorkshire Regiment," *The Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 4 April 1916, p. 6, *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 9 March 2022)

³⁸ "Rotsea Man Killed," *The Driffield Times*,

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 2 March 2022)

⁴¹ "No.1 Canadian Casualty Clear Station War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=fonandcol&id=2005082&lang=eng>: accessed 11 March 2022), entries for 21 and 22 July 1916; Note: Second Lieutenant Rawson in his letter to Mrs. Boynton said that George died one hour after being wounded on 21 July. However, the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* and the chaplain at the No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station recorded his death as 22 July.

⁴² "No.1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 12 March 2022), entry for Pte G Boynton, Service number: 2780, No. 237

⁴³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/198487/george-edward-boynton>: accessed 11 March 2022), entry for George Edward Boynton

⁴⁴ "Rotsea Man Killed," *The Driffield Times*. Note: The reporter credited Second Lieutenant Alf Rawson as the author of the letter to George's mother. There did not appear to be an officer of that name with the Yorkshire Regiment or with the BEF. Perhaps, the newspaper reporter transcribed incorrectly the name of Second Lieutenant Wilfred Robert Lawson who did serve with the 5th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment and died on 15 September 1916. *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/183575/wilfred-robert-lawson>: accessed 20 March 2022), entry for Wilfred Robert Lawson

⁴⁵ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 8 March 2022), entry for George Edward Boynton, Regimental number: 2780

⁴⁶ "UK, WW1 Pension Ledgers and Index Cards, 1914–1923," *Fold3* (www.fold3.com: accessed 31 May 2021), entry for Boynton, George Edward, Regimental number: 2780

⁴⁷ "British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry*, entry for George Edward Boynton, Regimental number: 2780

⁴⁸ "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 11 March 2022), entry for James W. Boynton, Schedule number: 95, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: Jbad, Borough: Beverley, Yorkshire (East Riding), England, Registration district: 520/1

⁴⁹ "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 March 2022), entry for Frank C. [sic] Boynton, Schedule number: 103, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: Jbaf, Borough: Beverley, Yorkshire (East Riding), England, Registration district: 520/1; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 March 2022), entry for Frank O. Boynton, Registration year: 1922, Registration district: Beverley, County: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 221, Spouse: Edith Stephenson

⁵⁰ "1939 England & Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 March 2022), entry for Tom Baynton [sic], Schedule number: 37, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: Jcaa, Borough: Beverley, Yorkshire (East Riding), England, Registration district: 520/1; "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage

Index, 1916–2005,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 March 2022), entry for Tom Boynton, Registration year: 1926, Registration district: Beverley, County: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 177, Spouse: Mary A. Clark

⁵¹ “1939 England & Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 March 2022), entry for Raymond Boynton, Schedule number: 182, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: Jcca, Borough: Beverley, Yorkshire (East Riding), England, Registration district: 520/5; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 March 2022), entry for Raymond Boynton, Registration year: 1933, Registration district: Beverley, County: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 125, Spouse: Dorothy M. Janney

⁵² “1939 England & Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 March 2022), entry for Maud E. Coverdale [*sic*], Schedule number: 414, Sub-schedule number: 2, Enumeration district: Jbaf, Borough: Haltemprice, Yorkshire (East Riding), England, Registration district: 520-4; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 March 2022), entry for Maud Elizabeth Boynton, Registration year: 1925, Registration district: Beverley, County: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 254, Spouse: Francis Coverdale

⁵³ “1939 England & Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 March 2022), entry for John W. Boynton, Schedule number: 73, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: Jbfc, Borough: Haltemprice, Yorkshire (East Riding), England, Registration district: 520-4; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 March 2022), entry for John William Boynton, Registration year: 1926, Registration district: Beverley, County: Yorkshire East Riding, Volume: 9d, Page: 231, Spouse: Selina Sissons

⁵⁴ “1939 England & Wales Register,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 9 March 2022), entry for Arthur A. Roe, Schedule number: 128, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: Kzbw, Borough: York, Yorkshire (West Riding), England, Registration district: 517-1; “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 March 2022), entry for Arthur A. Roe, Registration year: 1913, Registration district: Tadcaster, County: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 1895, Spouse: Florence Wilkinson

⁵⁵ “The Green Howards, Yorkshire Regiment, Alexandra Princess of Wales’s Own, Roll of Honour of Officers, Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Men Who Fell in the Great War 1914–1919,” *Remembrance – The Yorkshire Regiment, First World War* (<https://www.ww1-yorkshires.org.uk/richmond%20church%20roll%20of%20honour/richmond-church-roll-of-honour-5th-battalion.pdf>: accessed 16 March 2022), entry for Boynton, George William, p. 7

⁵⁶ “Hutton Cranswick Rotsea and Sunderlandwick Memorial Cross,” *Imperial War Museum* (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/34831>: accessed 17 March 2022), entry for Boynton, George Edward

⁵⁷ *Remembrance – The Yorkshire Regiment, First World War* (<https://www.ww1-yorkshires.org.uk/html-files/database-search-result.php>: accessed 17 March 2022), entry for G. Boynton