

## Eric Green (1898 – 1951)

Eric Green was one of the sons of the Farnhill butcher, William Green. A keen participant in village life and very much involved with Farnhill Methodist Chapel, he followed his father's profession before joining the Durham Light Infantry during WW1.

He returned to Farnhill in 1918 after being a Prisoner of War in Germany, where he had worked as a miner.

Marrying in 1919, he later went to live in Cowling where he ran his own butcher's shop.

Eric Green died in 1951, leaving a widow and one daughter.



Photograph courtesy of Margaret Yao.

### Pre-war life

Eric Green was born, in Farnhill, on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1898. He was the eldest child of William and Matilda Green (nee Clough). William was a native of Farnhill, and ran a butcher's shop at 33 Main Street; Matilda was from Crosshills.

Further children followed and by the time of the 1911 census, the family consisted of:

- William Green; b. 1877, Farnhill; butcher
- Milly Green; b. 1876, Crosshills
- Eric Green; b. 1898, Farnhill; at school
- Edward; b. 1900, Farnhill; at school
- Harry Clough; b. 1902, Farnhill; at school
- Norman; b. 1905, Farnhill; at school
- Frances Alice; b. 1908, Farnhill

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 other purposes 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.
1 William Green	Head	34	Married	13	5	Butcher 310	Owner	At Home	Farnhill, Wetherby, Yorks
2 Milly Green	Wife	34		13	5				Crosshills, Wetherby, Yorks
3 Eric Green	Son	12				School 390			Farnhill, Wetherby, Yorks
4 Edward Green	Son	11				School			Farnhill, Wetherby, Yorks
5 Harry Clough	Son	8				School			Farnhill, Wetherby, Yorks
6 Norman Green	Son	5				School			Farnhill, Wetherby, Yorks
7 Frances Alice Green	Daughter	3							Farnhill, Wetherby, Yorks

Extract from the Green family's 1911 census return.

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**Note:** The "Particulars of Marriage" section records that William and Milly had been married for 13 years, and had had five children, all living; no children born to the marriage had died.

A further daughter, Marion, was born on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1912.

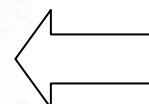
## WW1 service

Eric Green's WW1 service records do not appear to have survived (over 70% of these records were destroyed in a fire during the WW2 London blitz). However a fragmentary account of his WW1 service can be constructed from other sources.

His inclusion on the Farnhill Parish Council roll of honour, drawn up early in 1916 when Eric was just 17 years old, probably came about because he was a member of the local Volunteer Reserve and expecting to serve as soon as he was old enough. Subsequent newspaper reports of events in the village suggest that his active service did not start until 1917.

In April 1916, Eric appeared in a concert given at Kildwick school by former pupils.

Song...	"For King and Country "	...	...	Miss E. Darby
Concerted Item...	"All aboard for Dixie "	...	...	The Boys
Song...	"Little grey home in the west "	...	...	Miss B. Walmsley
Action Song...	"Knit, knit, knit "	...	...	Six Girls
Song and Chorus...	"Pack up your troubles "	...	...	Miss M. Nelson
Song ..	"A fat li'l feller wid his mammy's eyes "	...	...	Miss D. Hill
Song and Chorus...	"From Saturday night till Monday Morning "	...	...	Miss D. Gill
Character Song..	"Old and new "	...	...	Eight Girls
Song and Chorus...	"Keep the home fires burning "	...	...	Mr. Eric Green
Song...	"When you come "	...	...	Mrs. F. Sugden



### PART II.

## Sketch - "An Unexpected Entertainment"

By S. CALDWELL.

(By permission of the publishers, Messrs Abel Heywood & Sons, Ltd.)

### CHARACTERS—

Miss Lydia Crosspenny, an interfering spinster...*Miss Elsie Greenwood*  
Mrs. Elliot, her niece ... *Miss Fanny Tillotson*  
Ella, May and Sylvia, daughters of Mrs. Elliott...  
*Misses L. Greenwood, B. Atkinson, Annie-Hargreaves.*  
Martha, Miss Lydia's servant ... *Miss E. Walker*

GOD SAVE THE KING.



Pianist—MISS C. FEATHER.

Violins—MISSES L. SUNDERLAND, A. MOSLEY, D. GILL.

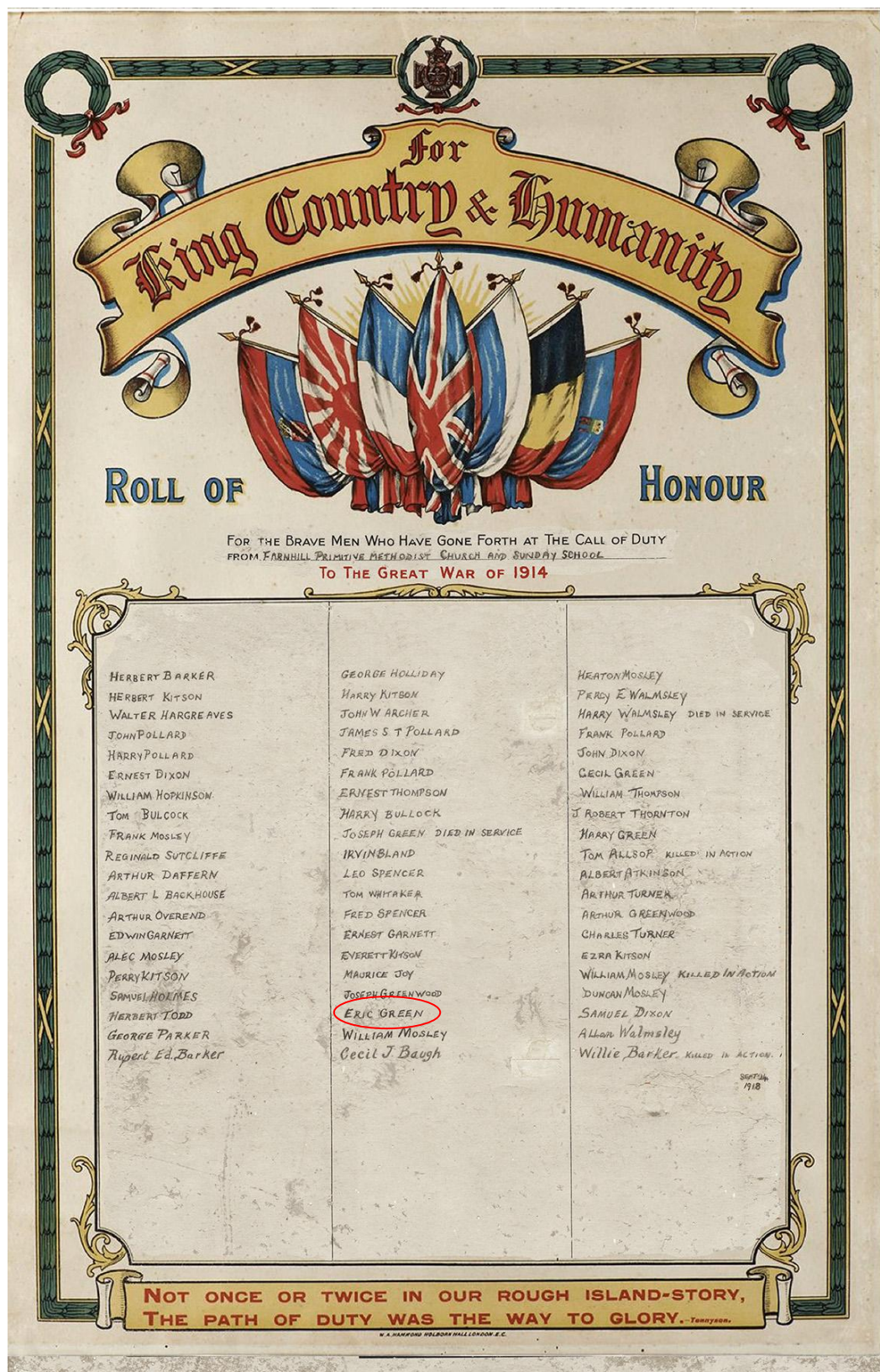
Concert programme from the headmaster's log book

Reproduced by kind permission of Kildwick School

The news report of the event (Keighley News 6/5/1916) mentioned that the audience included Herbert Barker who was home on leave from the front, but it makes no mention of Eric – who was the only adult male member of the cast – being in the forces.



Eric's name was recorded on Farnhill Methodist Chapel's Roll of Honour. This was first unveiled on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1916, but his name was not mentioned in the news report of the time and it appears (along with several others) to have been added later.



The digitally-restored Farnhill Methodist Roll of Honour (1916)

At the end of January 1917, Eric operated a magic lantern projector at a slide-show held in the Methodist Church. Once again, the news report of the event (Craven Herald 2/2/1917) made no mention of any involvement with the forces.

The following month, however, Eric joined the Durham Light Infantry as a Private (service number 77584). He was 19 years of age.

77584 ✓	Pte.	GREEN, Eric,	10th Durh. L.I.
			77584. Pte.
			2nd Durh. L.I.
			77584.

Extract from the WW1 Medal Roll, shows that Eric Green served with both 10<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions Durham Light Infantry  
Used under licence from the National Archive

The only war-time news reports that mentioned Eric come from April 1918. Reports similar to the one shown below were published in all the local newspapers.

**Farnhill Prisoner of War.**  
Mr. Wm. Green, butcher, Farnhill, has received word from his son, Pte. Eric Green (Durham Light Infantry) that he was taken prisoner on March 21st at Monchies on the St. Quentin front. Before enlisting Pte. Eric Green was employed by the Skipton Co-operative Society. He was also a member of the local Volunteers.

From West Yorkshire Pioneer, 26/4/1918  
By kind permission of Craven Herald

**Note:** Eric was probably employed by the Co-op as a butcher. Both he and his younger brother Edward followed their father's career. Edward subsequently took over and ran the Farnhill shop.



Under the terms of the Armistice agreement, signed on November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918, all prisoners of war were immediately released. Eric returned to the village the following month.

**FARNHILL.**

**RETURN OF PRIVATE E. GREEN.—Pte.** Eric Green, eldest son of Mr. Wm. Green, butcher, Farnhill, has arrived at Hull from Paterbren in Westphalia, Germany, where he has been a prisoner since last March. Pte. Eric Green joined up in February, 1917, and served with the Durham Light Infantry. He was taken prisoner on March 21st this year, and has worked as a miner in Germany. He does not complain of harsh treatment and says he is in good health. Before enlisting he was a butcher in the employ of the Skipton Co-operative Society.

From West Yorkshire Pioneer, 13/12/1918

By kind permission of Craven Herald

**Note:** The family story is that Eric did not wait for the official repatriation procedures. Instead he simply set off for home, travelling across Germany and neutral Holland. This might account for how Eric came to be one of the first of the Farnhill service men to return home.

Other newspaper reports of Eric's return say that he travelled from Rotterdam to Hull aboard the S.S. Londonderry.



[Photograph](#) © National Railway Museum and SSPL, used under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution - Non Commercial-Share Alike ([CC BY-NC-SA](#)) licence.

## Post-war life

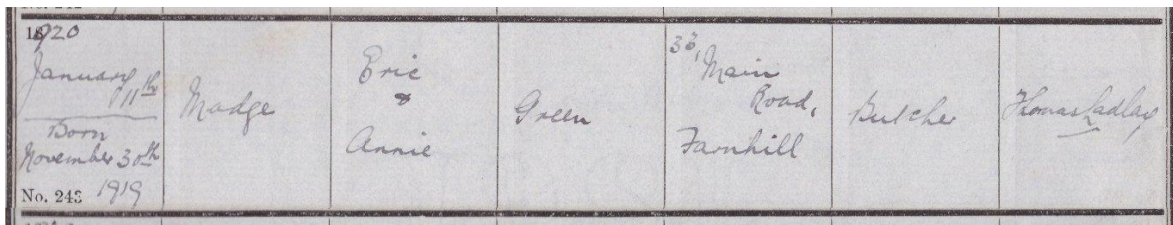
After the war Eric resumed his life in Farnhill.

He was elected treasurer of Kildwick Old Boys' Football Club when it reformed after the war, in May 1919, and was a member of the team's committee during their [championship winning 1919/20 season](#).

Later that year, on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1919, Eric married local girl Annie Mosley, in Farnhill Chapel.

**Note:** Annie Mosley appears in a Kildwick school class photograph dated 1908-9. The photograph also includes Edward Green, Eric's younger brother.

Their only child, a daughter called Madge, was born a few months later and baptised in the chapel early in 1920.



Madge Green's baptismal record.  
Scanned by Farnhill & Kildwick Local History Group

When Madge was just a young child she was photographed with Eric, Eric's mother Milly, and Milly's mother Isabella Clough.



Four generations of the Clough-Green family  
Photograph courtesy of Margaret Yao

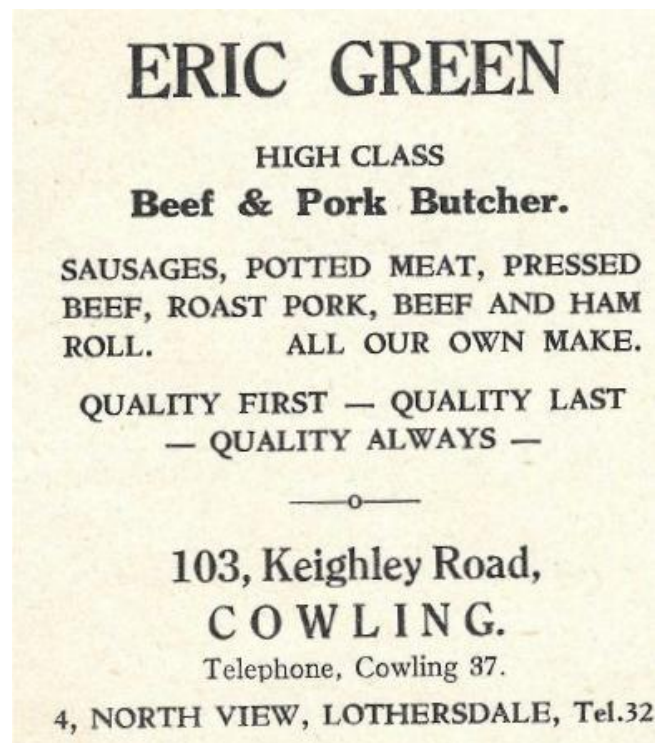
The 1921 census records Eric, Annie and Madge living at 33 Main Street. He is working at his father's butcher's shop in Cononley.

It seems that Eric became quite involved with the Chapel during the early 1920s. He appears to have been a member of the choir and a member of the trustees committee (possibly from as early as May 1918, which would mean that he was appointed while a Prisoner of War). From October 1921 he was the chapel's caretaker, for which he received a wage of £10 per quarter plus additional sums for "extra work". There is also a reference, in the Chapel Trustees' minute book, to him being appointed "chief engineer" in January 1922 (perhaps this relates to the chapel's organ and/or the heating apparatus ?).

Eric also took up local amateur dramatics. In 1921 he took the part of Will Scarlett in the popular two-act comic operetta, "King of Sherwood", which was put on in Farnhill Institute (Craven Herald 8/7/1921), and in October 1924, following the formation of the Institute's Dramatic Society, played Sir Francis Drake in a well-received performance of the operetta "Dogs of Devon" (Craven Herald 17/10/1924).

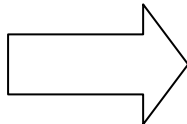
Sometime in 1924, Eric and his family moved from Farnhill to Cowling (Eric resigned as caretaker of Farnhill Chapel at the end of January), where they set up home and a butcher's shop at 103 Keighley Road.

**Note:** A 1924 date for the family's move to Cowling coincides with Eric giving up his allotment, which he had rented for three years from Farnhill Parish Council, at a cost of 6/3d (31p) per year. His final payment was for the year up to the end of March 1924.



Advertisement for Eric Green's butchery business  
From the January 1938 Kildwick Parish magazine.

Eric appears to have continued his interest in amateur dramatics, becoming a member of Cowling Dramatic Society.



### FARNHILL

**Dramatic Performance.**—The Cowling Dramatic Society paid its first visit to the village on Saturday last. Two performances of the local drama, "The Tyrant of Gillbeck Mill," were given in the Primitive Methodist School and attracted large gatherings. Both performances were exceptionally well given and met with appreciation; the acting throughout being good. The characters were:—Seth Ogden (Mr. J. Binns), Jim Stubbin (Mr. E. Green), Harry Bell (Mr. J. Bradley), Hannah Bell (Mrs. L. Hudson), Grace Bell (Miss C. Lindsay), Jim Dowshaw (Mr. J. T. Thornton), Jack Harden (Mr. F. Driver), Bob Pinder (Mr. H. Whitaker), Emma Martin (Miss M. Shuttleworth), Mrs. Pinder (Miss Z. Laycock), Ned Driver (Mr. L. Shuttleworth), Luke Driver (Mr. J. Jobling), Solomon Watson (Mr. J. Emmott), Mally Watson (Miss M. Shaw), Smuts (Mr. R. Hoyle) and the Village Constable (Mr. S. Whitaker). The drama was under the management of the author (Mr. A. Teal) and Mr. E. Dracup. The stage manager was Mr. E. Smith, and the pianist Mrs. C. Earnshaw.

Cowling Amateur Dramatic Society in Farnhill Methodist schoolroom – 19/3/1926

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In 1929, Eric became a Trustee of Cowling Methodist Chapel.

Before and throughout WW2 Eric served as a member of the Royal Observer Corps. The 1939 Register, created at the start of WW2 to enable ration books to be issued, recorded Eric as being Deputy Head of the local Royal Air Observer Corps. It also recorded Annie as being in the Women's Voluntary Service for Civil Defence, and Madge (on a separate page and not included in the extract shown below) as being a First Aid Worker and ARP Warden.

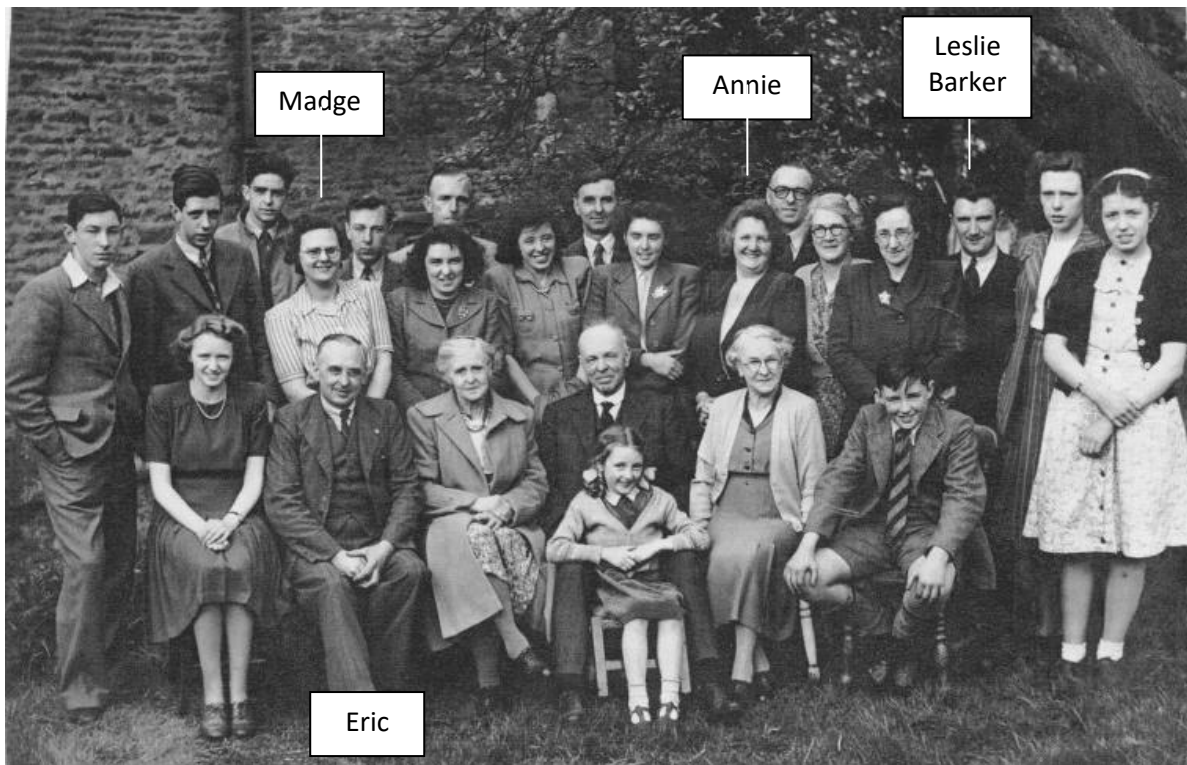
Green	Eric	✓	M	26 Oct	98	14	✓	Master Butcher - Retail	Deputy Head Observer - Royal Air
Green	Annie	✓	F	5 Oct	01	14	✓	Unpaid Domestic Duties & Shop	Observer Corps T3 Oct 98
									Women's Voluntary Service for Civil
									Defence - West Riding County C

Extract from the 1939 Register for 103 Keighley Road, Cowling

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In 1941 Madge, Eric and Annie's daughter, married Leslie Barker; and in 1948 the whole family gathered to celebrate William and Milly Green's Golden Wedding.



William and Milly Green's Golden Wedding photograph – 1948  
Courtesy of Margaret Yao

Eric's father, William, died in August 1949, and his mother, Milly, in January 1951; both at their home, Bradleys Farm, Cononley.

Eric Green died on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1951; aged 53. He was buried in the Methodist graveyard on Old Lane, Cowling, where his gravestone says he was 52.



Photograph by Farnhill WW1 Volunteers Project

The following obituary appeared in the Craven Herald.



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## Postscript

After Eric died, Annie moved out of 103 Keighley Road and went to live with her sister, Violet Mosley, in Sun Street Cowling. She died on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1983, aged 82, and was buried with Eric.

Madge and Leslie Barker may have had a daughter, born in 1949, but no further information is available and it is unclear whether any direct descendants remain in the local area.

## Eric Green – a life in summary

**Born:** 26/2/1898, Farnhill

**Died:** 3/8/1951 **Aged:** 53

**Home address:** 103 Keighley Road, Cowling

### Parents

**Father:** William; b. 1877, Farnhill; d. 19/8/1949, Cononley

**Mother:** Milly (Matilda) (nee Clough); b. 1876, Crosshills;  
d. 2/1/1951, Cononley; buried 6/1/1951, Crosshills Ebenezer Chapel

**Married:** 1898, Skipton (Registration district)

### Siblings

Edward; b. 1900, Farnhill; m. Amy Thompson, 9/4/1925, Skipton (Registration district);  
d. 11/12/1957, Farnhill

Harry Clough; b. 30/7/1902, Farnhill;  
m. Marguerite Helen Bainbridge, 1929, Grantham (Registration district);  
d. 4/12/1930, Cononley

Norman; b. 1905, Farnhill; m. Pearl Garnett, 16/4/1928, Farnhill Methodist Chapel

Frances Alice; b. 7/12/1908, Farnhill;  
m. Stanley Carter Metcalfe, 20/9/1930, Farnhill Methodist Chapel;  
d. 1996, Crosshills

Marion; b. 28/9/1912, Farnhill; m1. Ralph Hudson, 24/2/1934, Skipton (Registration district);  
m2. Robert Burn, 1968, Staincliffe (Registration district); d. 2000, Gargrave

### WW1 service

**Service period:** February 1917 to December 1918

**Regt:** Durham Light Infantry; Private, no. 77584

**Medals:** British War Medal, Victory Medal

**Home address:** 33 Main Street, Farnhill

### Relationship to other volunteers

John William Clough – they were second cousins (Eric's mother was John William Clough's cousin)

### Marriage

**Wife:** Annie Mosley; b. 5/10/1901 Skipton (Registration district); d. 29/11/1983, Sutton

**Date:** 9/8/1919, Farnhill Methodist Chapel



## Children

Madge, b. 30/11/1919; bapt, 11/1/1920, Farnhill;

m1. Leslie Barker, 1941 Skipton (Registration district);

m2. Sylvester Scaife, 1980 Keighley (Registration district);

d. 4/4/1990, Glusburn

