

(James) Arthur Hartley

(1896 – *unknown*)

Note: James Arthur Hartley appears on the Farnhill Parish Council WW1 Roll of Honour as “Arthur Hartley”. His birth name was certainly James Arthur but he may have been known as Arthur in his early life. To avoid confusion, his full name is used in throughout this biography.

No Photo
Available

James Arthur Hartley's father, Richard, lost two wives tragically. His first wife died shortly after childbirth – the baby also died. James Arthur's mother, Richard's second wife, died when James Arthur was just two days old.

As a child James Arthur and his sister did not live with their father but with a couple in Cullingworth. By the time he was 15 James Arthur was living back in Farnhill and was working as a weaver.

Later he moved to Brighouse, where he was employed as a tram conductor and where he subsequently attested his willingness to serve in the forces.

During the war he served in France and rose to the rank of Sergeant, in the Royal Field Artillery.

After marrying and demobilisation, James Arthur joined Bradford City Police Force. After over 25 years' service he retired with the rank of Inspector.

It is thought that the family then left the area and no more details are known about James Arthur Hartley.

Pre-war life

James Arthur Hartley was born on the 18th March 1896.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT				SKIPTON						
1896 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Kildwick				in the County of York						
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar	Name entered after registration
23	18th March 1896 Airedale, Farnhill R.D.	James Arthur	Boy	Richard Hartley	Jane Elizabeth formerly Jones	Yarn Spinner	Richard Hartley Father Airedale Farnhill	18th March 1896	A. H. Dawson Registrar	

James Arthur Hartley's birth certificate – 18/3/1896

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He was the youngest child of Richard Hartley, originally from Cowling, and his second wife Jane Elizabeth, formerly Jones. She died of heart failure on the 20th, two days after giving birth to James Arthur, and was buried in Utleigh cemetery a few days later. She was aged 39.

REGISTRATION DISTRICT				SKIPTON					
1896 DEATH in the Sub-district of Kildwick				in the County of York					
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
387	20 March 1896 Airedale Farnhill R.D.	Jane Elizabeth Hartley	Female	39 Years	Wife of Richard Hartley a Game Finisher	Confinement Cardiac Failure Certified by Mr E. Bremner L.S.M.D.	Richard Hartley Widower of deceased Present at the death Airedale, Farnhill	20 March 1896	A. H. Dutton Registrar

Jane Elizabeth Hartley's death certificate – 20/3/1896, in childbirth
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Note: Richard's first wife, Sarah Jane (nee Helliwell) of Bingley, had died in 1893 – also during or shortly after childbirth. In that case the child, a son called Richard, also died.

The 1901 census recorded the Hartley family, Richard and the surviving children of his first marriage – Percy aged 16, and Beatrice aged 14 – living on New Road, Farnhill (then also known as Airedale and now known as Skipton Road). James Arthur and his sister, Emily Maud Margaret, the children of Richard's second marriage, were not with them. Emily, aged six, was living with her father's sister and family, in Keighley; and James Arthur, aged five, was recorded as living in the home of Joseph Atkinson and his wife, in Cullingworth.

By the time of the 1911 census all the members of the Hartley family were reunited, in Farnhill. James Arthur was employed as a weaver in a cotton mill.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.									
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 the preparation of Statistical Tables.									
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (On Birth Day) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATION of every person.
1 Richard Hartley	Head	69	Married	6	4	2		Bawesedge, Yorkshire	English
2 Beatrice Hartley	Daughter	24					Weaver 250	Bottom Grand, Yorkshire	English
3 Percy Hartley	Son	26					Sube Master Pinner	Keighley, Yorkshire	English
4 James Hartley	Daughter	16					Weaver 250	Bottom Grand, Yorkshire	English
5 Arthur Hartley	Son	15					Weaver	Bottom Grand, Yorkshire	English

Extract from 1911 census return – Hartley family
Used under licence from the National Archive

At some point between 2nd April 1911 (the date of the census) and 26th May 1915, James Arthur must have moved from Farnhill and gone to live in Halifax.

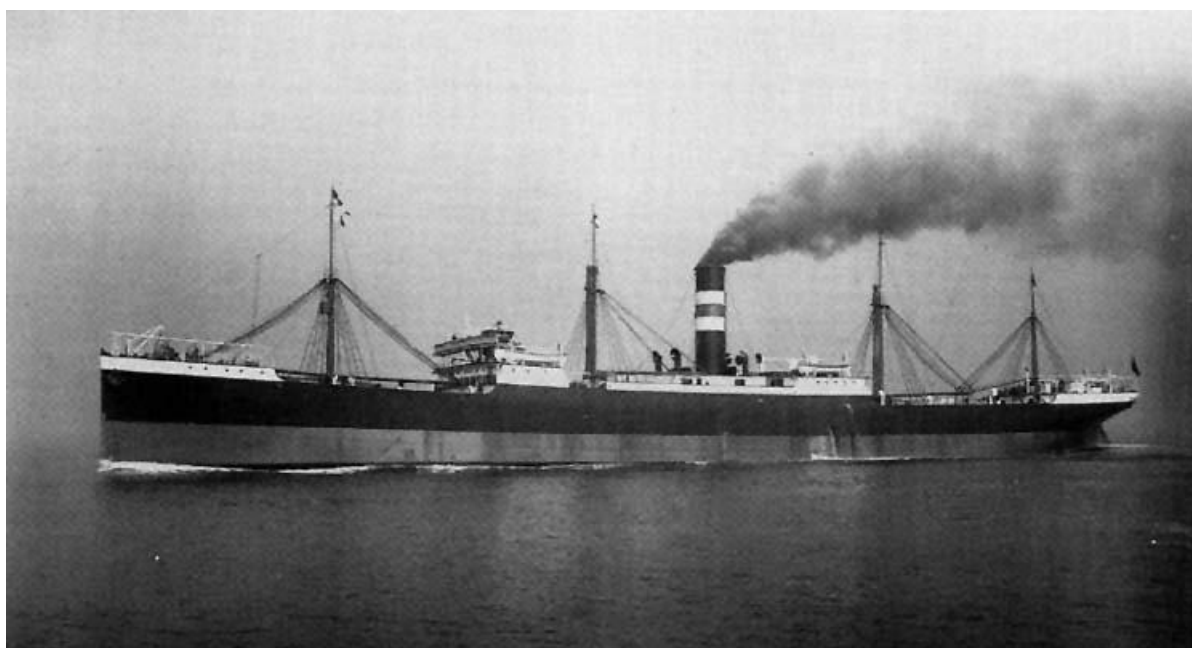
WW1 service

James Arthur Hartley attested his willingness to serve in the army on the 26th May 1915 at Brighouse, and in early June was assigned to the 168 (Huddersfield) Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) as a Gunner (no. L/25862). He gave his next of kin as Richard Hartley of 51 Airedale, Kildwick; his home address as 4 Bruce Street, Halifax; and his civilian occupation as "Tram Conductor". He also gave his age as 20 years and two months; in fact, he was just 19.

Note: Airedale was in Farnhill. Many Farnhill addresses were recorded as Kildwick simply because that is where the Post Office was located.

During his training in the UK, James Arthur was promoted first to Bombardier and then, on the 24th December 1915, to the rank of Corporal.

According to Regimental diary, the whole of 168 Brigade were given leave over Christmas 1915. However, on Boxing Day telegrams were sent out to the men recalling them and on 27th December 1915, they were put on a train to Southampton and then sailed for France on board the SS Inventor, arriving at Le Havre on the same day to join the 32nd Division.



SS Inventor

From <http://www.cumberlandsarrow.com/steamers.htm>

The Regimental diary reported that at the beginning of April 1917, they were positioned near St. Quentin, about 15 miles south of Cambrai – which was an important supply point for the German “Hindenberg” line. On the afternoon of the 3rd, the brigade laid down a barrage in support of French troops advancing on their immediate right.

Later that day and during the morning of the 4th, the brigade moved its position – perhaps hurriedly, as the diary recorded that many horses died of fatigue.

At some point during the barrage on the 3rd, James Arthur Hartley was wounded by shrapnel from a German shell. He was transferred to a hospital in Rouen and then, on the 23rd April, was brought back across the Channel to a hospital in Manchester – where he was promoted to Sergeant.

The incident, and details of a letter that James Arthur sent to his sister Emily, was reported in the Craven Herald (27/4/1917).

KILDWICK.

SERGEANT J. A. HARTLEY WOUNDED.

Mr. Richard Hartley, 59, Airedale, Kildwick, on Sunday last received a letter from the Records Office, Woolwich, stating that a report had been received from the War Office to the effect that Sergeant J. A. Hartley, Royal Field Artillery, was ill at the Australian General Hospital, Rouen, suffering from gunshot wound in the left leg.

His sister, Mrs. B. Freeman, also received a letter from Sergeant Hartley, in which he says:—
"I suppose you will by now have received the word saying I have been wounded. Well, it is really nothing to get alarmed about, as it is going on fine. I was wounded on the 3rd of April, and was sent straight away to the dressing station, and from there by easy stages to the base hospital. The piece of shrapnel went in the back of my thigh, and buried itself in the muscle. It was removed on Easter Monday, and the wound is now almost clean. I might say I was very lucky indeed when I got this wound, as three shells fell inside a yard from me; in fact, I fell into one of them when I went down."

Before joining up, Sergeant Hartley was the driver of a car in Halifax, and has been in France about 16 months. He is now aged 21 years.

News of James Arthur Hartley's wounding

By kind permission of Craven Herald

Some additional information was included in a report published the following day in the Keighley News.



News of James Arthur Hartley's wounding
By kind permission of Keighley News

Note: There are some factual inaccuracies in both these reports. James Arthur Hartley was a tram conductor, not a "car driver"; he was from Farnhill, not Kildwick; Richard Hartley lived at number 51 Airedale, not number 50; and his mother was dead – so no longer residing there.

While he was home, on 3rd July 1917, James Arthur Hartley, a Sergeant with the Royal Field Artillery, aged 21 (he said he was 22), married the 27 year-old spinster Florence Isabel Batty, a jeweller's assistant, at Rhodes Street Wesleyan Chapel, Halifax. Her home address was 27 Summergate Street, Halifax, just a street away from James Arthur's home in Bruce Street.

1917. Marriage solemnized at <u>the Wesleyan Chapel, Rhodes Street</u> in the District of <u>Halifax</u> in the Counties of <u>York W.R. and Halifax C.B.</u>								
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.
42	Third July 1917	James Arthur Hartley	22 years	Bachelor	Sergeant Royal Field Artillery	4 Bruce Street Halifax	Richard Hartley	Retired
		Florence Isabel Batty	27 years	Spinster	Jeweller's Assistant	27 Summergate Street Halifax		
Married in the <u>Wesleyan Chapel</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Wesleyan Methodists</u> by <u>Licence</u> This Marriage was solemnized between us, { <u>James Arthur Hartley</u> } in the Presence of us, { <u>Hannah Lena Batty</u> } And in the Presence of { <u>James E. Crawshaw</u> } { <u>Florence Isabel Batty</u> } { <u>Alice Horsfall</u> } Authorized Person for <u>the said Chapel</u>								

Hartley – Batty marriage certificate
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On the 12th December 1917, James Arthur was returned to 168 Brigade in France, where he saw out the rest of the war. He was returned to the UK on 19th January 1919 and demobilized on 17th February.

Note: It is possible that on one of his last days in France James Arthur may have visited the battlefield of Waterloo, in Belgium, taking advantage of one of the trips there organised by the brigade throughout January, and recorded in the Regimental diary.

Campaign :—				1914-15		(A) Where decoration was earned.	
						(B) Present situation.	
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	A.63			
(A) HARTLEY	RFA	Capt	25862	MEDAL ROLL PAGE			
(B) James A	"	Sgt	"	VICTORY MEDAL RFA/1438 8614			
Action taken				C.521.			
THEATRE OF WAR (1) France							
QUALIFYING DATE 27.12.15							
(6 34 46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608							
[OVER]							

James Arthur Hartley's WW1 Medal Card – showing him eligible for 1915 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal
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Post-war life

Immediately on his demobilization, on 24th February 1919, James Arthur Hartley started work as a Constable with Bradford City Police. He would remain with the force for 26 years, eventually rising to the rank of Inspector.

He and Florence lived for a short while with her widowed mother at 27 Summergate Street, Halifax. However by the time the couple's first child, a daughter called Margaret, was born, on 24th October 1919, they had moved to The Cottage, Prune Park Farm, Allerton. This is confirmed by the 1921 census which also records that Florence's mother, Isabel Batty, was living there with them at this time.

The Cottage was still the family's home when their son, Jack, was born on 7th June 1923.

Shortly afterwards the family moved to 10 Grantham Place, Bradford, and then, in 1930, to a newly built house: 60 Bollingbroke Street, Bradford.

Inspector James Arthur Hartley retired from the police force on 12th February 1946, aged 49 years and 10 months. He was awarded a pension of 2/3rd salary – £310 per annum.

By the time the first post-WW2 electoral roll was compiled, in 1946, the family had moved from 60 Bollingbroke Street and beyond this it has proved impossible to find out any more details about the lives of James Arthur Hartley and his family.

Note: There are several possible marriage records for both Margaret and Jack Hartley, but the names are so common none can be conclusively regarded as the children of James Arthur and Florence Isabel Hartley.

It seems likely that Florence Isabel Hartley died in the Garstang area of Lancashire, early in 1961. There is no conclusive record for the death of James Arthur Hartley.

James Arthur Hartley – a life in summary

Born: 18/3/1896, Farnhill

Died: *unknown*

Parents

Father: Richard; b. 1842, Bawsedge, Cowling; d. 1924, Skipton (Registration district)

Mother: Jane Elizabeth (formerly Jones); b. 1856/7; d. 20/3/1896; bur. 23/3/1896, Utley

Richard Hartley's first wife was Sarah Jane Helliwell (b. 1856, in Bingley). They married in Ingrow on 24/12/1881. She died 27/2/1893, before Arthur Hartley was born, in or shortly after childbirth – Richard d. aged 1 day. Mother and child buried in Utley 3/3/1893.

Siblings

Percy (half-brother); b. 1884, Keighley (Registration district); d. 28/12/1958, Keighley

Beatrice (half-sister); b. 1886, Keighley (Registration district);

m. Jabez Nelson Baxter, 22/4/1911, Keighley; d. 23/2/1949, Farnhill

Lily Louisa (half-sister); b. 1888, Keighley (Registration district); d. 1/1/1890

Richard (half-brother); b. 27/2/1893, Keighley (Registration district); d. in infancy (aged 1 day)

Emily Maud Margaret (Madge); b. 1895, Kildwick;

m1. Benjamin Henry Freeman, 23/12/1916, Keighley;

m2. Thomas Wilfred Rees, 2/9/1925, Kildwick;

d. 1962, Kidderminster (Registration district)

WW1 service

Attested: 26/5/1915, Brighouse

Service period: 27/12/1915 to 17/2/1919

Regt.: 168 (Huddersfield) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery
(Gunner/Corporal/Sgt, no. L/25862)

Medals: 1915 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal

Home address: 4 Bruce Street, Halifax

Marriage

Wife: Florence Isabel Batty; b. 14/2/1890, Halifax; d. 1961, Garstang (Registration district)

Date: 3/7/1917, at Wesleyan Chapel, Halifax

Children

Margaret; b. 24/10/1919, Allerton, Bradford; m. John Myers, 1/3/1952, Christ Church, Skipton

Jack; b. 7/6/1923, Allerton, Bradford

