

George Inskip (1893 – 1917)

George Inskip, one of 11 children, was born into a musical family whose forebears had been celebrated photographers. He worked at T. and M. Bairstow's mill in Sutton in Craven and played in Kildwick Brass Band.

Enlisting in September 1914 and assigned to a battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, George Inskip was one of 32 officers and men of the battalion killed in an engagement during the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917.

Commemorated on a panel which forms part of the Cambrai Memorial, and on the Kildwick war memorial, George has no known grave.



Photograph courtesy of Freda Topham

Pre-war life

George Inskip was born in Skipton on 1st June 1893. He was the third child, and eldest son, of Richard and Mary Alice (nee Thornton).

In the previous generation, the Inskip family had contained a number of celebrated photographers. His grandfather, George Inskip, had a studio in Skipton and his great uncle, John, had one in Scarborough. There was also another family member, James, who had a photographic studio in Kent.

George's father was a cornet player of some renown and played in a number of brass bands, including Skipton Old Prize Band, Mossley Band and Kingston Mills in the north west of England, and others.

The 1901 census records George living with his grandparents, at 3 Romille Street Skipton. The rest of the family were living in Mossley, Lancashire, a small town in Greater Manchester.

The family appear to have made a permanent move to the Skipton area early in 1904, when the Craven Herald announced that Kildwick Brass Band had secured the services of significant new player.

KILDWICK. KILDWICK AND DISTRICT PRIZE BRASS BAND.—

It was felt that the Kildwick bandsmen have spent no idle hours during the winter, and since they have secured Mr Richard Inskip, solo cornet (late of Mossley), as a permanent addition, the progress they have made is marked, and they will have to be counted with in the forthcoming season's contests.

Report from Craven Herald, 22/01/1904; reproduced by kind permission of the Craven Herald

By the time of the 1911 census, when he was 17, George and his family (his father and 10 siblings; his mother had died in 1910) were living at 9 Hanover Street, Farnhill. With 12 people living in just four rooms it must have been something of a squeeze.

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 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. Richard Inskip	Head	42	Married	2	11	11	—	House Maker	At Home	Kipton Yorks
2. Minnie Inskip	Daughter	30	Single					Washer 250	At Home	Kipton "
3. Bessie Inskip	Daughter	19	Single					Washer	At Home	Do "
4. George Inskip	Son	17	Single					Bobbin Finmaker 453	At Home	Do "
5. Richard Robert Inskip	Son	14	Single					Bobbin Finmaker 213	At Home	Do "
6. Louis Inskip	Son	11	Single					School 390	At Home	St. Mary's, Craven
7. Alice Inskip	Daughter	10	Single					School	At Home	Do "
8. Sarah Inskip	Daughter	8	Single					School	At Home	Do "
9. Morris Inskip	Son	6	Single						At Home	Crosshills Yorks
10. Jessie Inskip	Daughter	4	Single						At Home	Do "
11. Phyllis Inskip	Daughter	4	Single						At Home	Do "
12. Harold Inskip	Son	3	Single						At Home	Do "

Extract from the 1911 census return for 9 Hanover Street, Farnhill
Used under licence from the National Archive

The census also records that he was working as a “Bobbin Finmaker”. Subsequent news reports suggest that this was at T. and M. Bairstow's mill in Sutton-in-Craven.



Photograph courtesy of Barry Durham

George followed his father into Kildwick Brass Band and, in 1913 was elected as a member of the committee (Craven Herald, 28/2/1913).

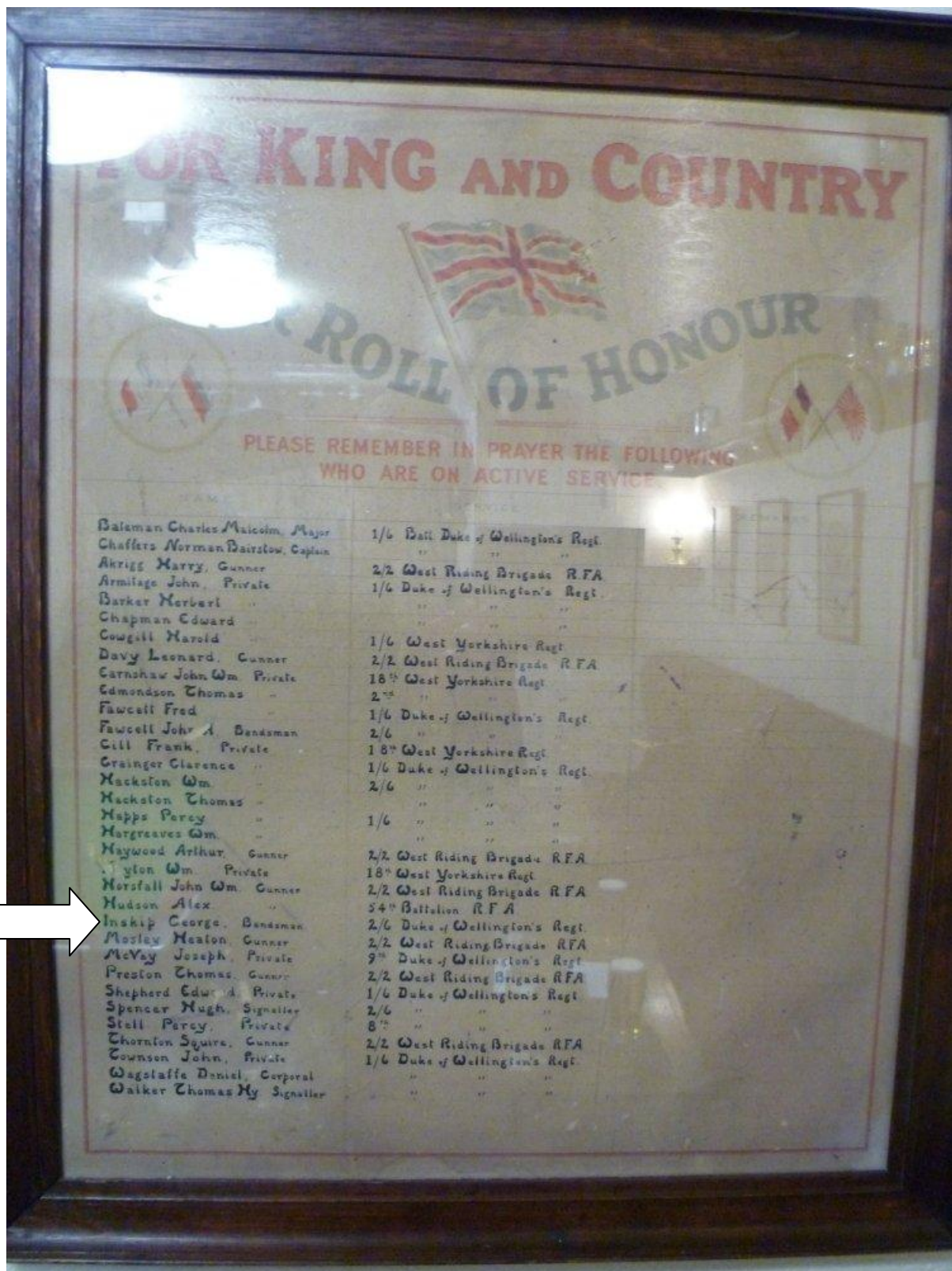
WW1 service

George enlisted in September 1914 and, in due course, was assigned to 2/6th battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment.

The war diary of 2/6 battalion records that an inspection was carried out by the Commanding Officer of the Northern Army at its Bedford headquarters at 12:45pm on 3rd February 1917. Later that day it received the order to embark on February 5th.

The battalion, a total of 33 officers and 953 men – including Private George Inskip, sailed from Southampton to Le Havre on three vessels: Mona's Queen, Caesarea and Huntscraft, arriving at 8am on 6th February 1917. By the 17th they were in the front line.

During the war, George's name was added to a Roll of Honour listing men who had gone to serve from Bairstow's mill.



Bairstow's Mill WW1 Roll of Honour – now kept in the King's Arms, Sutton-in-Craven
 Photograph by kind permission of the landlord

Circumstances of death

In November 1917, as part of the 62nd (2nd West Riding) Division, 2/6 battalion were involved in the Battle of Cambrai, an attempt by British forces to break through the German "Hindenburg Line". The infantry were supported by tanks – one of the first times when tanks were used in large numbers. Initial successes on the first few days of the battle, when the Germans were pushed back, stalled as the tanks developed mechanical problems and the Germans reinforced their new positions.

By 27th November the attack was grinding to a halt.

The Regimental war diary of 2/6 battalion for 27th November 1917 reports that it attacked and took the village of Bournon, but further progress could not be made due to a lack of support on either the left or right flank. The village was evacuated at 5pm and a position was taken up on a ridge in Bournon Wood, overlooking the village. Throughout the rest of the day the wood was shelled with heavy guns.

The record concludes by noting the casualties incurred during that day: Officers – 4 dead and 4 wounded; Other Ranks – 28 killed, 137 wounded and missing. George Inskip was amongst the dead.

George Inskip is commemorated on a panel (no. 6, stone M) that forms part of the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval. He has no grave.



Cambrai Memorial, Louverval

Photograph by kind permission of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org)



George Inskip, commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Louverval
Photograph courtesy of Freda Topham

Postscript

On 21st December 1917, the following article appeared in the West Yorkshire Pioneer:

FARNHILL SOLDIER KILLED

Mr. Richard Inskip, of Hanover Street, Farnhill, received the sad news on Wednesday that his eldest son, Pte. George Inskip (Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment) had been killed in action. The letter is from 2nd Lieut. E. R. Storey, and reads as follows:— "It is with great sorrow that I have to inform you that your son was killed in action on Nov. 27th last. It may be some small consolation to you to know that he died instantly, and therefore suffered no pain. He was well liked by his comrades in the company, and his death is a loss to us all. All the officers and the men of the 'B' Company send their warmest and deepest sympathy to you in your most sad bereavement."

Before enlisting, deceased was employed by Messrs. T. and M. Bairstow, Sutton Mills. He joined the West Riding Regiment in September, 1914, and served with the band at Skipton. Later he trained at Doncaster and Derby, and proceeded to France in February, 1917. Mr. Inskip's second son, Richard, was in the same battalion as his brother, and is now in hospital at Reading suffering from wounds in his left hand. A third son, Louis, has been rejected from military service. Pte. George Inskip was formerly a member of Kildwick Brass Band, playing the cornet.

On 10th February 1918 George Inskip was commemorated in a memorial service, dedicated to four former Sunday school pupils who had died in the war, held at Crosshills Wesleyan Chapel.



Crosshills Wesleyan Chapel
 Photograph courtesy of Barry Durham

On 14th March 1918, his father received the back pay that was due to George when he died, from the War Office: £10-16s-2d. On 4th November 1919, he received a further £14-10s War Gratuity.

Soldier's Name	Regiment, Rank, No.	Date and Place of Death	CREDITS			CHARGES			Date of Authority	To whom Authorised	Amount Authorised		
			Account and Date	£	s.	d.	£	s.			d.	Account and Date	£
Inskip George	3/6-W. Riding Plc 265699	27-11-14. in Action France	Yorkt 18.	10	16	2	m.o. 3. 18	14-3-18	Mr Richard	10	16	2	
								11-11-19	Mr Richard	14	10	-	

WAR GRATUITY.
 1920
 transfer 5671. 7-8-19.
 Regd. Paper 2100 Enc 14
 Serial No. 9 651

George Inskip's entry in the WW1 Soldier's Effects register
 Used under licence from the National Archive

He also received a war pension.

S.B. 36 D.		(7304) Wt. 7384 - B1398. 450 bks. 723. T. S. 138		Regional No. 10/ 35	
Particulars of Man (Men).				Particulars of Claimant(s). 17835	
Name	1	INSKIP George		Name	1
	2				2
	3				3
Regiment	1	W. Riding	Regtl. No. 1	265699	Address
	2		2		1
	3		3		2
Rank	1	Pl	Marital	1	Relationship
	2		Status	2	1
	3			3	2
Date and	1			New Address	1
Cause of	2	27. 11. 17			2
Death.	3	killed			3
While Serving	1	Case No. 1		Age	1
After Dis-	2				2
charge.	3				3

Extract from George Inskip's WW1 pension ledger (SB 36)
Used under licence from the National Archive

Sadly the rest of the SB36 form is blank and there are no details of any payments made. It was usual, however, for the next of kin of men killed in action to be awarded a pension for life.

Also in 1919, the family received the British War Medal and Victory Medal awarded to George for his war service. They would also have received a bronze plaque (colloquially known as a "death penny") and a scroll, both of which were usual for families of men killed in action.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
INSKIP	W. RID R.	Pte	265699
George			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	0/2/101 B22	3087	
BRITISH	do	do.	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

George Inskip's WW1 Medal Card
Used under licence from the National Archive

George Inskip is commemorated on the Kildwick war memorial, unveiled in 1921.



Photographs provided by Keighley and District Digital Archive

George's father, Richard, died in June 1939.

A number of George's siblings married and had children. Members of these families still live in the area.

George Inskip – a life in summary

Born: 1/6/1893, Skipton
Died: 27/11/1917, Northern France **Aged:** 24

Parents

Father: Richard; b. 1869, Skipton (Registration district);
d. June 1939; buried 30/6/1939, Crosshills Ebenezer Chapel
Mother: Mary Alice (nee Thornton); b. 12/10/1868, Bradley;
bapt. 5/4/1884; d. July 1910; buried 9/7/1910 Crosshills Ebenezer Chapel
Married: 1889, Skipton (Registration district)

Siblings

Minnie, b. 9/6/1890, Skipton; m1. Henry (Harry) Pass, 1914, Skipton (Registration district);
m2. Arthur P. Harrison, 1951, Wharfedale (Registration district);
d. 25/10/1964, Morecambe
Celia, b. 23/1/1892, Skipton; m. Symon Frise, 20/8/1927, Kildwick;
d. 1971, Huddersfield (Registration district)
Richard Usher, b. 14/8/1896, Mossley (Lancashire);
m. Hetty Nelson, 1932, Keighley (Registration district); d. 12/7/1955, Crossflatts
Louis, b. 1/6/1899, Mossley (Lancashire); d. 1953, Sutton
Alice, b. 25/2/1901, Mossley (Lancashire); d. 11/9/1982, Steeton
Lavinia, b. 10/2/1903, Mossley (Lancashire);
m. Wilfred Clarkson, 9/5/1928, Farnhill Methodist Chapel; d. 1994, Silsden
Maurice, b. 19/11/1904, Crosshills;
m. Kathleen Margaret Smith, 30/6/1928, Kildwick; d. 1964, Sutton
Phyllis, b. 31/7/1906, Crosshills; m. Hugh Shackleton, 8/7/1933, Kildwick; d. 6/4/1990, Steeton
Doris, b. 31/7/1906, Crosshills; d. 27/7/2001, Silsden
Harold, b. 2/10/1908, Crosshills; m. Mary Evelyn Hebson, 1940, Skipton (Registration district);
d. 1981, Silsden

WW1 service

Signed-up: September 1914
Regt.: 2/6th battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment; Private, no. 265699
Medals: British War Medal, Victory Medal
Home address: 9 Hanover Street, Farnhill

Relationship to other volunteers

Richard Usher Inskip – brother

