

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



ARNOLD HEELEY

COLDSTREAM GUARDS

DIED OF WOUNDS 23RD OCTOBER 1914

BORN IN 1883 AT WADSLEY BRIDGE, SHEFFIELD, THE  
SON OF ABRAHAM AND ANNIE HEELEY

# Heeley Family History

- **1891 census** shows Abraham, his wife Annie (nee Horbury) and their 5 children living at 120, Forncett St, Brightside Brierlow, Sheffield as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Abraham (Head)	34	Labourer, iron works	Kirkburton, Yorkshire	1857
Annie (wife)	32	Housewife	Wakefield, Yorkshire	1859
Harriet	13		Wakefield, Yorkshire	1878
Gertrude	10	Scholar	Wakefield, Yorkshire	1881
Arnold	8		Wadsley Bridge, Sheffield	1883 - 1914
Nellie	4		Wadsley Bridge, Sheffield	1887
Clara	baby		Wadsley Bridge, Sheffield	1891
Thomas Horbury (widowed father-in-law)	63		Wakefield	1828

- **1901 census** shows the Heeley family living at 3, Well St, Sutton-in-Craven. Arnold was not listed as being at this address on the night of the census. He had joined the Coldstream Guards the previous year and was presumably residing at a British army base, or overseas.

- **1911 census** shows that Abraham and Annie had been married for 35 years and that of their 9 children born alive, 1 had since died. It also shows the Heeley family now living at 16, Eastfield Place, Sutton Mill as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Abraham (Head)	54	Wool Comber Worsted Yarn	Kirkburton, Yorkshire	1857
Annie (wife)	52	Housewife	Wakefield, Yorkshire	1859
Arnold	28	Professional Soldier	Wadsley Bridge, Sheffield	1883 - 1914
Nellie	24	Reducer, Worsted Yarn Spinner	Wadsley Bridge, Sheffield	1887
Clara	20	Reducer, Worsted Yarn Spinner	Wadsley Bridge, Sheffield	1891
Annie	16	Rover, Worsted Yarn Spinner	Sheffield, Yorkshire	1895
Lloyd	9	School boy	Sutton-in-Craven	1902



Eastfield Place, Sutton-in-Craven

(source: Rachel Simpson & Richard Whiteoak from the Glyn Whiteoak collection)

## Boer War 1899 - 1902

Prior to WW1, Arnold Heeley had served as a professional soldier for 12 years with the 3rd battalion of the Coldstream Guards. He had enlisted on the 10th March 1900 and obtained his discharge on the 9th March 1912.

His regimental number was 3426 and his rank was Private.

The Coldstream Guards form part of the Guards Division of the British Army and is the oldest regiment in the Regular Army. It originated in Coldstream on the Scottish border in 1650 when General Monck founded the regiment.

The Coldstream Guards regiment is ranked second in the order of precedence behind the Grenadier Guards. Duties include the State Opening of the Parliament, Trooping the Colour, Remembrance Sunday parade and the Changing of the Guard.

During his 12 years service, Arnold Heeley fought in the South African Boer War from the 15th April 1902 to 4th October 1902 earning the Queen's South Africa Medal with 2 clasps, 'Cape Colony' and 'South Africa 1902'.

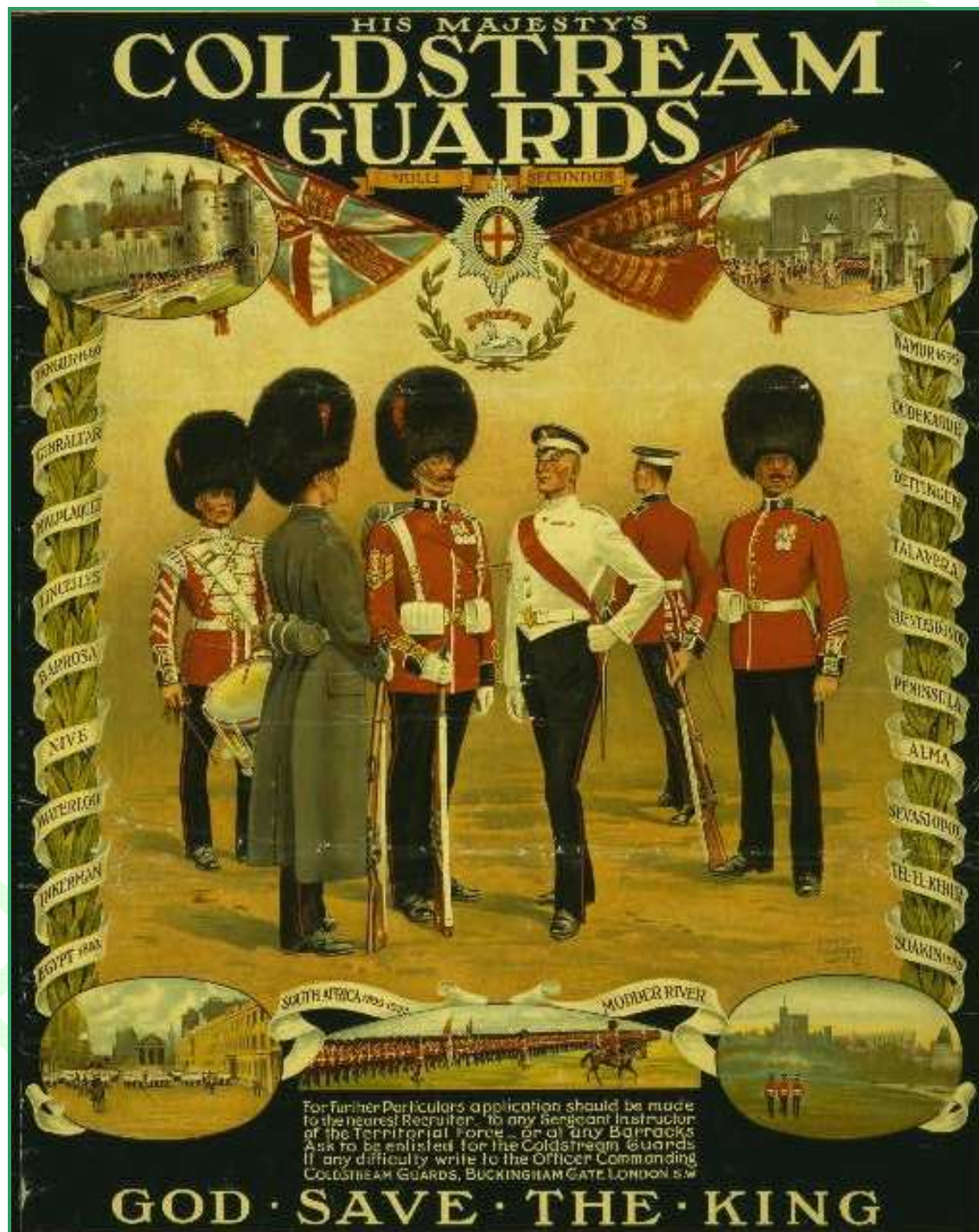


Queen's South Africa Medal as awarded to Pte Arnold Heeley



Pte Heeley also served in Egypt from the 16th January 1908 to 23rd March 1911.

After his discharge from the Coldstream Guards, Arnold Heeley returned home to Sutton-in-Craven where he worked as the caretaker at Sutton-in-Craven Council School from 1912 until the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.



World War I recruitment poster for the Coldstream Guards

# World War 1



It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815



The official announcement by Germany of the war (Berlin, August 2nd 1914)





People waiting for news on Parliament Square in London on August 3rd 1914, the day before war was declared



'Jubilant' scenes outside Buckingham Palace on August 4th 1914, the day that war was declared

# August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914

## Britain declares war on Germany

As an army reservist, Arnold Heeley re-enlisted on the 22nd August 1914 for active service with the 3rd battalion of the Coldstream Guards following the outbreak of the Great War.

He retained his regimental number of 3426 and rank of Private from his prior 12 years service with the Coldstream Guards.

The battalions of the regular army were naturally the first to go to war and they formed the bedrock for the later expansion of Kitchener's 'volunteer' army

Before WW1 however, the British army was very small in comparison with those of its European neighbours. The army's main role since the South African Boer War (1899-1902) was the policing of the British Empire. Britain's traditional armed strength lay in the Royal Navy and there was no pre-conceived intention to commit a large army to a Continental war

However, army planning in the crisis years leading up to 1914 had provided for a small **Expeditionary Force** of 6 Infantry Divisions, equipped as a mobile force that could be deployed anywhere.



British pre-war regular army soldiers "The Old Contemptibles"



In the last days of peace, the Government committed 4 Infantry Divisions consisting of pre-war regulars and reservists to the **British Expeditionary Force** going to France.

These soldiers were known as the '**Old Contemptibles**', a phrase used by the German Kaiser to describe this small but efficient fighting force of the British army. These pre-war regulars and reservists were professional soldiers trained to fight, obey orders and not ask questions.

The **British Expeditionary Force** of 1914 is remembered because of its battle honours and the suffering it endured. This culminated in the bloody attritional fighting around Ypres in Oct and Nov 1914.

The Coldstream Guards were among the first British regiments to arrive in France after Britain declared war on Germany.

In the battles to follow they suffered heavy losses, in two cases losing all their officers. At the First Battle of Ypres in November 1914 the 1st battalion was virtually annihilated, down to just 150 men and the Lt Quartermaster.

Pte Arnold Heeley landed in France with the 3rd battalion Coldstream Guards on the 11th September 1914, just five weeks after Britain had declared war on Germany and qualified for the Mons Clasp **5th Aug – 22nd Nov 1914** to be attached to the ribbon of his 1914 Star medal.



The Mons clasp was awarded to soldiers who had served in France and Belgium between the 5th Aug and 22nd Nov 1914 **AND** who had been 'under fire' during that period.

Campaign :— B.E.F.		1914		(A) Where decoration was earned.	
				(B) Present situation.	
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)	
(A) HEELEY	bold. lds	Pte	3426	MEDAL	ROLL PAGE
(B) Arnold.	— " —	— " —	— " —	VICTORY	84/1013 23
				BRITISH	— 100 — 100
					10. 11. 14 169
Action taken		D. of 10/12. 10. 14			
Clasp 2/2839.					
QUALIFYING DATE.		11. 9. 14			
(6 84 46) W234—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER.]					

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Arnold Heeley (source: *The National Archives*)



Coldstream Guards cap badge, WW1

# The Battle of Langemarck

21st - 24th October 1914



The Battle of Langemarck, 1914

The **Battle of Langemarck**, 21 - 24 October 1914, was part of the wider **First Battle of Ypres** (19 October - 22 November). It began as an encounter battle between British and German troops, both advancing to make an attack. It ended with the Allies on the defensive around Ypres, holding off the first of a series of fierce German attacks that would be typical of the remainder of the battle of Ypres.

On the 22nd October 1914 the Germans launched an attack along a large stretch of the British line, against the 1st, 2nd and 7th Divisions, which included the 3rd Coldstream Guards. The German attack was repulsed along most of the British line, apart from in the centre of the 1st Division.

Here the 1st battalion of the Cameron Highlanders held a semi-circular position north of the Kortekeer Cabaret. The line here was made up of a series of unconnected trenches, and late in the afternoon the Germans



penetrated the north-west portion of the line. Once inside the semi-circle they were then in a position to attack the remaining British positions from behind. At 6.00 pm the Cameron's were forced to retreat a quarter of a mile, leaving a potential gap in the British lines.

General Haig responded to this crisis with a certain amount of flexibility, creating a reserve force from a variety of sources. On the morning of the 23rd October the reserve force recaptured the Kortekeer Cabaret. At the same time a major German attack against Langemarck was defeated. Both battles were over by 1.00 p.m.



Troop movement, WW1

Having been in France for less than 8 weeks, Guardsman Arnold Heeley was **Wounded in Action** during the **Battle of Langemarck** and subsequently **Died of Wounds** on the 23rd October 1914.

**He was 31 years of age**



## Casualty Details

**Name:** HEELEY, ARNOLD

**Initials:** A

**Nationality:** United Kingdom

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment/Service:** Coldstream Guards

**Age:** 31

**Date of Death:** 23/10/1914

**Service No:** 3426

**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** Addenda Panel

**Memorial:** YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))



**Article Date:** 20 November 1914

News has been received during the week by Mr. and Mrs. Healey, of Eastfield Place, that their son, Arnold Healey, had died through wounds received in action. The deceased, who was in his 33rd year, had served twelve years in the Coldstream Guards, and returned home two years ago, having finished his term with the Army.

At the outbreak of war he rejoined his old regiment and was accepted. Prior to rejoining his old regiment he was caretaker at the Sutton Council School.

(source: *Craven's Part in the Great War* [www.cpgw.org.uk](http://www.cpgw.org.uk))

# YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL



**YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL**

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge.

The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial bears the names of 54,322 officers and men, including Guardsman Arnold Heeley whose graves are not known.

Guardsman Arnold Heeley is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial.



WAR MEMORIAL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARK



(source: *South Craven, the official guide*, 1950)



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)



Guardsman Arnold Heeley was posthumously awarded the  
1914 Star + MONS CLASP, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original trio of WW1 medals, obverse



Original trio of WW1 medals, reverse (star unnamed original)  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)  
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny  
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)



# FOR THE FALLEN

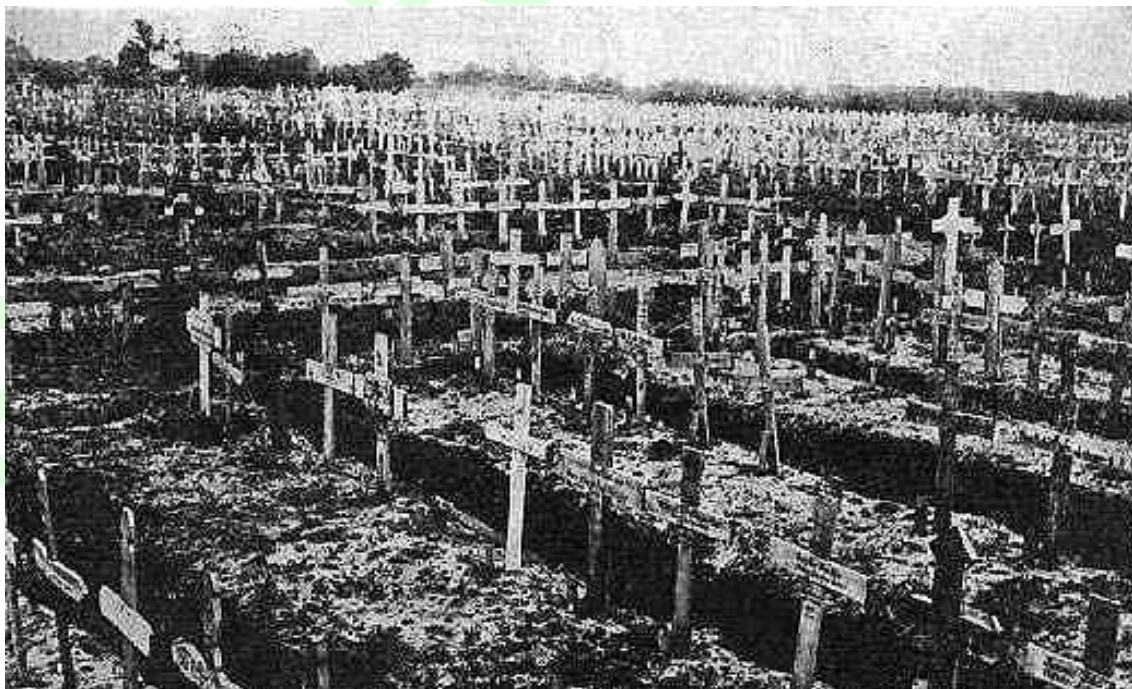
*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE  
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS  
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE  
MORNING*

*WE WILL REMEMBER THEM*

**LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943**



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)