

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



STANLEY SPENCE DUFFILL

LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

DIED A PRISONER OF WAR 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1918

BORN IN 1899 AT SKIPTON, THE SON OF WILLIAM AND  
ELIZABETH DUFFILL

# Duffill Family History

- **1901 census** shows William, his wife Elizabeth and their 2 children living at Canal Yard, Skipton as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
William (Head)	39	Canal warehouseman	Bingley	1862
Elizabeth (wife)	32		Cononley	1869
Stanley Spence	2		Skipton	1899 - 1918
Sydney	Baby		Skipton	1901

- **1911 census** shows that William and Elizabeth had been married for 15 years and that of their 5 children born alive, 1 had since died. It also shows the Duffill family now living at Rook St, Lothersdale as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
William (Head)	49	Groom gardener	Riddlesden	1862
Elizabeth (wife)	42		Cononley	1869
Stanley Spence	12	Doffer, worsted spinning	Skipton	1899 - 1918
Sydney Clifford	10	Scholar	Skipton	1901
Harry Rhodes	8	Scholar	Skipton	1903
Ruth Hannah	5		Skipton	1906

During the Great War the Duffill family had re-located to Sutton and were living at 13, Wighill Street, Sutton-in-Craven.



(source: photo provided by David Smith)

## 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

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

### **Britain declares war on Germany**

In the autumn of 1914, the young men of the nation came from town and village to take the King's shilling and to offer him their dedicated services in defence of their homeland. From mills and mines, from shops and farms, from office chairs and civic departments, from loom, lathe, bench, plough and counter they flooded into the recruiting centres in answer to their nation's call for young manhood. These new recruits came to be known as **'Kitchener's Volunteers'**

### **The New Armies: "Kitchener's Volunteers"**



Earl Kitchener recruitment poster 1914 Parliamentary Recruiting Committee  
London, 1915 (Sept)





Rifle drill, Manningham Park, 1914 (Kitchener's New Army)  
(source: *The Bradford Pals* Ralph N. Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, 1993)

Prior to enlistment, Stanley Duffill worked as a doffer in worsted spinning.

During the Great War, Stanley responded to the call and volunteered to enlist into the 6th (service) battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment. His regimental number was 41326 and he commenced with the rank of Private.

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment was an infantry regiment of the British Army with a history going back to 1688. It saw service for three centuries, before being amalgamated into The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964.

During the Great War, the Leicestershire Regiment increased from 5 battalions to 19, serving in France & Flanders, Mesopotamia and Palestine.

The regiment lost approximately 6,000 dead during the four years of war



WW1 Leicestershire Regiment Cap Badge

Pte Duffill entered the Theatre of War sometime after the 1st January 1916

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
	Leic. R.	Pte.	4132.6
DUFFILL			
Stanley S.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	102315	1763	
BRITISH	do - do		
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Stanley Duffill (source: *The National Archives*)



# The Western Front 1918

The Western Front was marked by a system of trenches and fortifications separated by an area known as No Man's land. These fortifications stretched 475 miles and precipitated a style of fighting known as trench warfare.



British troops resting in a support trench  
(source: [www.gwpda.org/photos](http://www.gwpda.org/photos))

However, it was the Russian Revolution in 1917 that finally changed the nature of the deadlock and war of attrition in the west. Once the fighting had halted in the east, it allowed the Germans to transfer many Divisions to the Western Front. They knew that time was running out, for the United States of America had entered the war on the Allied side and it was only a matter of time before vast untapped reserves of manpower swung the balance in the favour of the Allies.

On the 11th November 1917, the German High Command decided to make a decisive attack in the west in the following spring. Their target was the British Army. They believed that the British were exhausted by the four major efforts in 1917 (Arras, Messines, Passchendaele and Cambrai).

By mid-February 1918, the Germans had moved many Divisions from the now collapsed eastern front to the west in preparation for this major spring offensive

By the spring of 1918, the Allies knew that there would be a major German attack; they just did not know when it would come. The British reinforced their positions near the coast while the French strengthened their positions to the south of the British.

On the 24th March 1918, the Germans launched the massive offensive. In just five hours, the Germans fired one million artillery shells at the British lines, over 3000 shells fired every minute. The artillery bombardment was followed by an attack by elite storm troopers. These soldiers travelled lightly and were skilled in fast, hard-hitting attacks before moving on to their next target. The German storm troopers carried little except weaponry, such as flame throwers that could cause much panic, as proved to be the case in this attack.



German storm troopers running through the barbed wire entanglement, WW1

By the end of the first day of the attack, 21,000 British soldiers had been taken prisoner and the Germans had made great advances through the British lines. The first few days of the attack were such an overwhelming success that many in Germany assumed that the war was all but over.





British prisoners captured by the Germans, WW1  
(source: [www.gwpda.org/photos](http://www.gwpda.org/photos))

Pte Stanley Duffill was wounded during the massive spring offensive on the 24th March 1918 and taken **Prisoner of War** by the Germans.

Private Stanley A. Duffill, of Holme Bridge, Sutton, who is in the Leicesters Regiment, is a wounded prisoner of war in Germany, his parents having received a postcard from him this week.

Keighley News extract (source: photocopied by Josie Walsh)

He subsequently **Died of Influenza** whilst still a prisoner of war on the 13th November 1918, two days after the Great War ended with the 11th November Armistice.

He was 20 years of age



## Casualty Details

**Name:** DUFFILL, STANLEY SPENCE

**Initials:** S S

**Nationality:** United Kingdom

**Rank:** Private

**Regiment/Service:** Leicestershire Regiment

**Unit Text:** 6th Bn.

**Age:** 19

**Date of Death:** 13/11/1918

**Service No:** 41326

**Additional information:** Son of William and E. Duffill, of 13, Wighill St., Sutton in Craven. Keighley, Yorks.

**Casualty Type:** Commonwealth War Dead

**Grave/Memorial Reference:** IV. A. 1.

**Cemetery:** BELGRADE CEMETERY

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



**Article Date:** 24 October 1919

### SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN - Death of Private S. S. Duffill

Another name has been added to the list of illustrious dead from the Parish of Sutton, who have fallen in the great war. Mr. and Mrs. Duffill, of Holmfield, Sutton, have received the sad news that their son, Private Stanley Spence Duffill, died at Namur in November last, whilst a prisoner of in German hands, and was buried in the cemetery there on the 13th November last. The notification, which is from the War Office, states that Private Duffill, who was in the 6th Leicester Regiment, died of influenza. He was one of our brave lads who was



taken prisoner when the Huns made the big push on 24th March, 1918. He was 20 years of age.

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

## BELGRADE CEMETERY



Belgrade Cemetery near Namur, Belgium

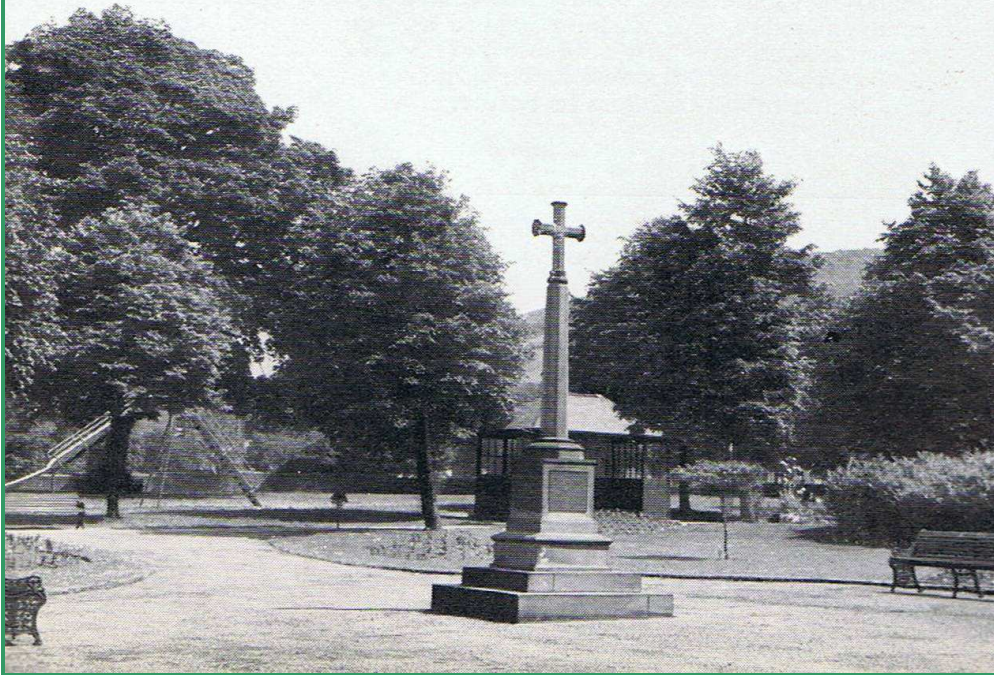
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* [www.cwgc.org/](http://www.cwgc.org/))

The Belgian town of Namur was attacked by the Germans on the 20th August 1914. The forts were destroyed by heavy artillery and at midnight on the 23rd August, Namur was captured. The town then remained in German hands until the end of the war.

The Belgrade Cemetery in Belgium contains 249 Commonwealth burials of the Great War, including the grave of Pte Stanley Duffill. Most of the burials date from a period of ten months following the November 11th Armistice, when casualty clearing stations were posted to Namur. Pte Stanley Duffill 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)



Pte Stanley Duffill was posthumously awarded the  
British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original pair of WW1 medals (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)



## Lest we Forget

### CRAVEN'S ROLL OF HONOUR



PRIVATE STANLEY SPENCE DUFFILL, 6th Leicester Regt., son of Mr. Wm. Duffill, Holmfield, Sutton-in-Craven, died a prisoner of war in hospital at Namur, November, 1918, and buried in Namur Cemetery, November 13th, 1918.

source: *Craven's Part in the Great War*

Original 1919 copy 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)