

TWO TEACHERS AND A MINISTER GO TO WAR

ARCHIBALD HODGSON CLEGG



Archibald Clegg was born in Keighley in 1888. Educated at the Keighley Trade and Grammar School he continued on to teacher training college in Birmingham. He commenced his teaching career at Skipton Parish Church School and also taught science at the Keighley Evening Technical School.

World War I intervened and he gained a commission in the Duke of Wellington's and after service in France he transferred to the Flying Corps as a flying officer/observer. He had considerable active service as an air observer flying behind enemy lines in a FB2A, a rear engined biplane. At the end of the war he was attached to the propaganda department of the Air Ministry. He maintained his military connections after the war through serving as a captain in the Territorials. During WWII he was at one time commanding officer of Earby Home Guard as a Major and was on the ARP and Billeting Committees.



Lieutenant Archibald Clegg (2nd from front) with fellow officers in the trenches



Above
Archibald Clegg (holding briefcase) with colleagues in the RFC



Left
Archibald Clegg had considerable active service as an air observer flying behind enemy lines in a rear engined FE2B Biplane similar to the one pictured

REV FREDRICK EDMUND BROWN

He was born in Earby in 1877. Frederick (or Fred as he was more commonly known) got his elementary education at the Earby Grammar School and, according to the 1891 census when he was thirteen years old, he had followed his father into the engineering trade as a mechanic. After a short spell as a pupil teacher he attended training college in Scotland from where he entered the Methodist Ministry and joined the China Inland Mission. His intended mission to China was thwarted when the Boxer Rebellion broke out.

He served the church for 3 years in Secunderabad in India as an army chaplain before transferring to Gibraltar in 1907.

When the First World War broke out he served on the Western Front. He is quoted as having said that "British soldiers fought better if they felt they had the chance of a Christian burial nearby."

YPRES AND THE SOMME

In 1915, Brown was seconded to the 49th West Riding Division in the Ypres Salient.

A colleague, the Rev Robert Tindall, the vicar of Yeadon, who served with the 1st West Riding Field Ambulance remembered Brown

"He always wore a beautiful silver crucifix given to him by his mother... when he was ministering to dying soldiers who often could not pray he placed the crucifix in their hands and said "You my brother, are dying for your friends: this is Gods Son dying for you, His dear friend."

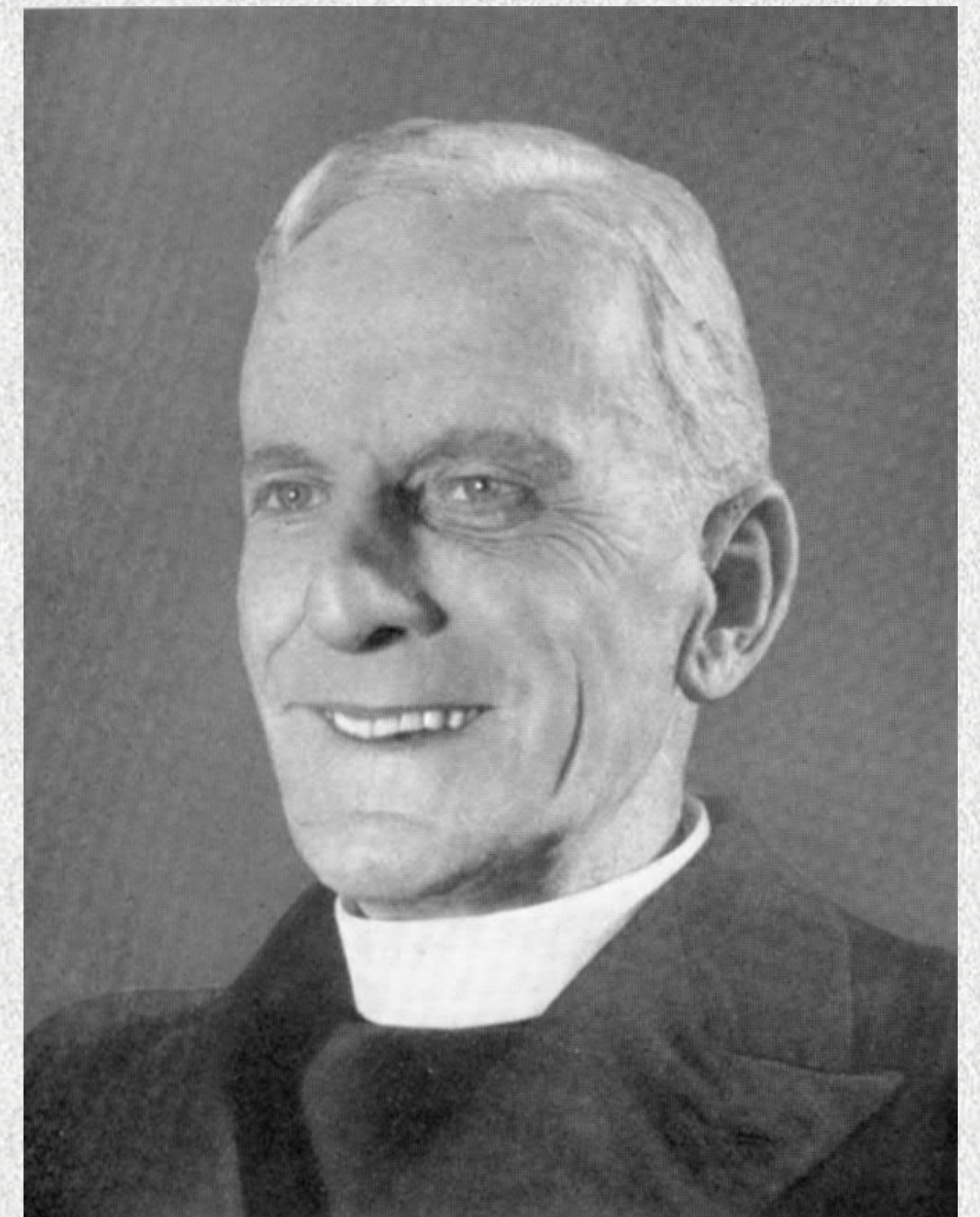
In 1916 the 49th Division was moved to the Somme where Padre Brown witnessed that terrible shambles of the battle starting on July 1st. In the first stages of the attack the chaplains were not allowed in the front line. However on the night of the 2nd July, Brown and a padre colleague, Rev Winchup, went up to the front against the Colonel's wishes and there they stayed for a week tending to the needs of wounded and dying Yorkshire men, putting himself in the most dangerous situations.

DSO

It was for his selfless bravery in ministering to the wounded and dying that Brown was admitted to the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) which was eventually announced in the King's Birthday Honours in June 1917. The citation read

"As senior Chaplain of his division he was conspicuous for his initiative, habitual gallantry and personal influence on the troops".

Tindall remembers that "he did nothing sensational, he just did his job magnificently."



Rev F E Brown

In 1919 he returned from France and was stationed at Aldershot. Following a period on the Hartlepool circuit he went back to Gibraltar as army chaplain and remained there for the rest of his life.

SAMUEL VARLEY HEAP

Samuel Varley Heap was born on 24th March 1872 in Holmfirth. He was educated at Fartown Grammar School in Huddersfield and Bury Grammar School. Attending Westminster Training College he was awarded a "Double First" in the Teachers' Certificate exam.

On 1st March 1897 Samuel Varley Heap took up his appointment as head teacher at New Road Board School in Earby.



As its superintendent, S V Heap played a leading role in the Earby Branch of St Johns Ambulance and Nursing Division. Dr Falconer (centre front) with members of Earby St John Ambulance Brigade. S V Heap is second row from the back, extreme right



Samuel Heap photographed in Deal, Kent

Following the shambles of the Boer War, the government was conscious of the need for preparation in the event of a major conflict. As part of this the Royal Navy instituted the Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve in 1903 "in order to provide a supply of men for service in Your Majesty's Navy in time of war or emergency". Members were recruited from the St Johns Ambulance Brigades. S V Heap was appointed first officer of the Earby contingent.

The Earby contingent of the Royal Naval Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve showed impressive patriotism at the start of the war and reported immediately to the Royal Naval Barracks at Portsmouth. Their departure was organised by their superintendent Samuel Varley Heap, who was the first officer of the RNSBR to join up. As the senior UK officer of the Reserve outside the Navy, he was to serve 4½ years as senior ward master at the Royal Marine Infirmary in Deal, the Royal Naval Barracks Chatham, the Royal Naval Sick Quarters in Immingham and Sheerness Dockyard, and was deservedly awarded the Admiralty's Long Service Medal on his demobilisation after the War following 15 years of service.