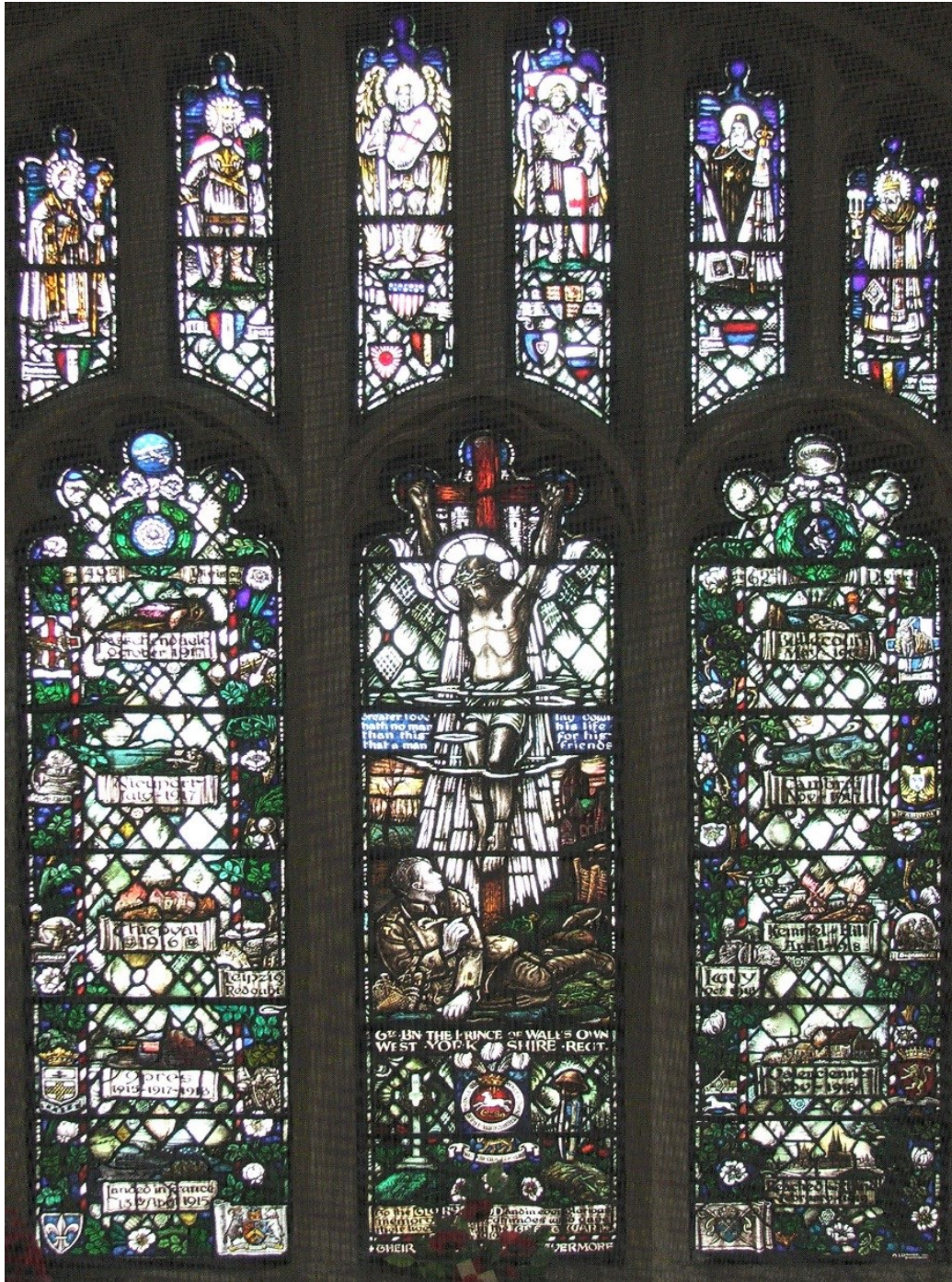


# Memorial Window To The 6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment



# The Creation of the Window 1921

The Memorial window to the 6th battalion, Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) was created in the Bromsgrove workshop of AJ Davies. In the same year in which the window was dedicated (1921), Captain EV Tempest published his History of the 6th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment. A detailed description and drawing of the window forms the final Appendix in the book and this, and other evidence, seems to make clear that there was collaboration between Captain Tempest and the Bromsgrove artists.

Davies had established a studio in the premises of the Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Arts in 1906. During the 47 years of its existence this studio was commissioned to produce a large number of stained glass windows for patrons in Britain and abroad.

Of particular importance to the studio, between 1911 and 1927, was the work of Albert Edward Lemmon. During WW1 Lemmon volunteered with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and served in France from October 1915 until demobilisation on 15 May 1919.

Throughout the war Lemmon carried with him his watercolours, pencils and paper and recorded scenes of battles, the wounded and war damaged buildings. A book of 13 of his images, each of a named and dated scene showing the awful conditions of life in the trenches, was published as Yuletide Greetings from the Battalion in 1919. Their close similarity in style and content leads us to believe that much of this 6th Battalion window was his inspiration.

AE Lemmon's experience of war and that of Captain Tempest coincided during the Battle of Kemmel in April 1918. In his despatch about this action, Douglas Haig describes the weight of the battle falling on 9th (Lemmon's) and 49th (Tempest's) Divisions and in his History of the battalion Tempest mentions the 9th Division stationed close to the Yorkshiremen's positions.



# Reading the window



## **The Side Panels** *Pages 4 - 9*

The events illustrated in the side panels begin at the bottom left, move upwards and then continue down from the top of the right panel.

## **The Central Panel** *Pages 10 & 11*

The central panel focuses on loss and sacrifice.

## **The Upper Tracery** *Pages 12 & 13*

The upper tracery honours the nations who were allies of the British Empire.

## **Notes** *Pages 14 & 15*

Background information about the  
6th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment



**Left:** The *fleur de lys* of France

**Centre:** **Landed in France 15th April 1915**

Scenes of disembarkation as men of 6th Battalion arrived during the night of 15/16 April 1915

**Right:** **The Bradford coat of arms**



**Left:** Coat of Arms of Ypres

**Centre:** **Ypres 1915 - 1917 - 1918**

The ruins of the medieval Cloth Hall following enemy action. The battalion was here in 1915, 1917 and 1918.

**Right:** Winter 1915: a soldier on guard in fur coat and gumboots and wearing his gas mask on his forehead. In front of him is the gas-warning flag showing the wind 'at danger'.





**Left:** Bombers: specialist unit of the Battalion equipped with Mills bombs and Hales rifle grenades.

**Centre:** **Thiepval.** The battalion served near this village from 1 July (the beginning of the Battle of the Somme) to the end of September 1916.

**Right:** Leipzig Redoubt was a typical German strong point. The Battalion suffered very heavy losses in the attempt to defend this critical position.



**Left:** A Torpedo Boat Destroyer representing the Royal Navy which formed the 'left flank' of our line at Nieuport.

**Centre:** **Nieuport July 1917** Two machine gunners help hold the line on the Channel coast.

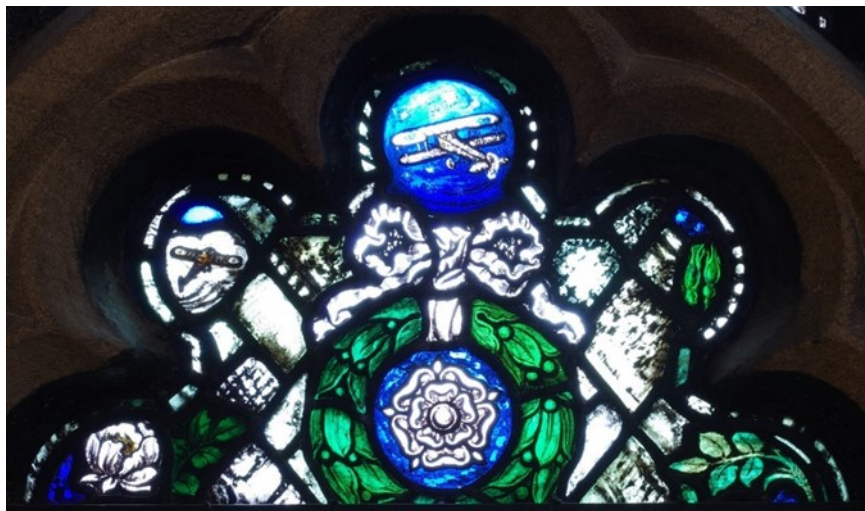
**Right:** A British trench mortar known as a "toffee apple".



**Left:** Stretcher Bearers in front of a red cross on white field.

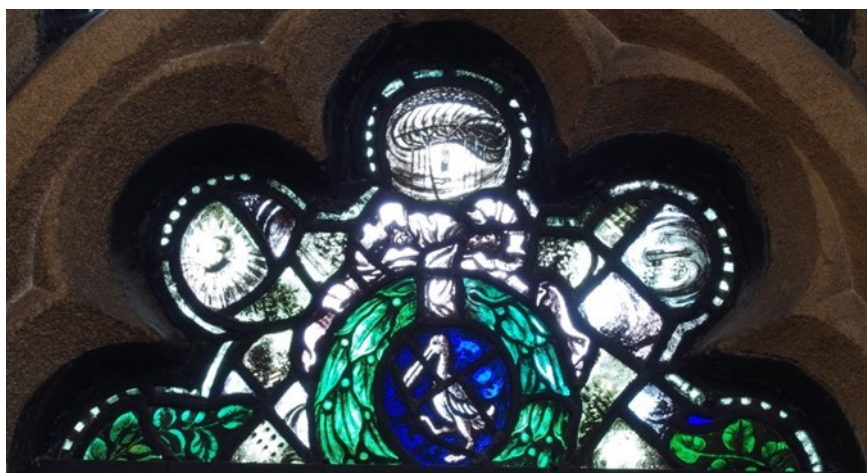
**Centre:** **Passchendaele Ridge July 1917** represented by a barrage of fire and smoke and a German Pill Box. The 6th battalion fought here in one of the most gruelling campaigns of the war.

**Right:** Pioneers represented by an entrenching spade.



**Left Panel Top:** Aeroplanes of the Royal Flying Corps above a white (Yorkshire) rose, the symbol of 49th Division, surrounded by a Laurel Wreath.





**Right Top  
Panel**

Shellbursts and observation balloons above a Pelican with its left foot raised, motif of 62nd Division, within a laurel wreath and sprays of the white rose of York



**Left:** Yorkshire roses

**Centre:** Bullecourt May 1917

Bullecourt village was a strong point on the Hindenburg Line, attacked by 62nd Div on 3 May and suffered heavy losses.

**Right:** Transport section used pack mules



**Centre:** Cambrai November 1917.

Tanks advancing through the smoke barrage during the attack on Havrincourt in November.

The 62nd Division Memorial stands there today.

**Right:** Coat of Arms of Cambrai



**Left:** Iwuy October 1918 showing a captured German gun.

**Centre:** Kemmel Hill April 1918

The hill is shown with the burning windmills. 1/6th suffered heavily on 25 April.

**Right:** Two signallers with their field telephone





**Left:** The white horse badge of the West Yorkshire Regiment. Trumpets and drums of the band together with the title of their march, '*Ça Ira*', first played at Famars in 1793.

**Centre:** **Valenciennes November 1918**  
The town on fire and shells bursting in the final advance. The 62nd Division were here at the Armistice.

**Right:** The Arms of Valenciennes



**Left:** The Dedication Scroll with the Arms of the See of Bradford (formed 1919)

**Centre:** **The Rhine Feb 1919** with the Bridge of Boats and Cologne Cathedral in the distance.

**Right:** Yorkshire roses.

## Centre Panel

*This description is taken from Appendix VI of History of the 6th battalion,  
West Yorkshire Regiment, by Captain EV Tempest DSO MC.*



In the centre is a figure of an  
Infantryman lying mortally  
wounded amidst the desolation  
of the battlefield.

He lies with his gas mask, at the  
alert and clasping his rifle. Near  
him is his steel helmet and  
around him barbed wire  
entanglements.

In the distance is a ruined church,  
shell-torn trees and the  
setting sun.

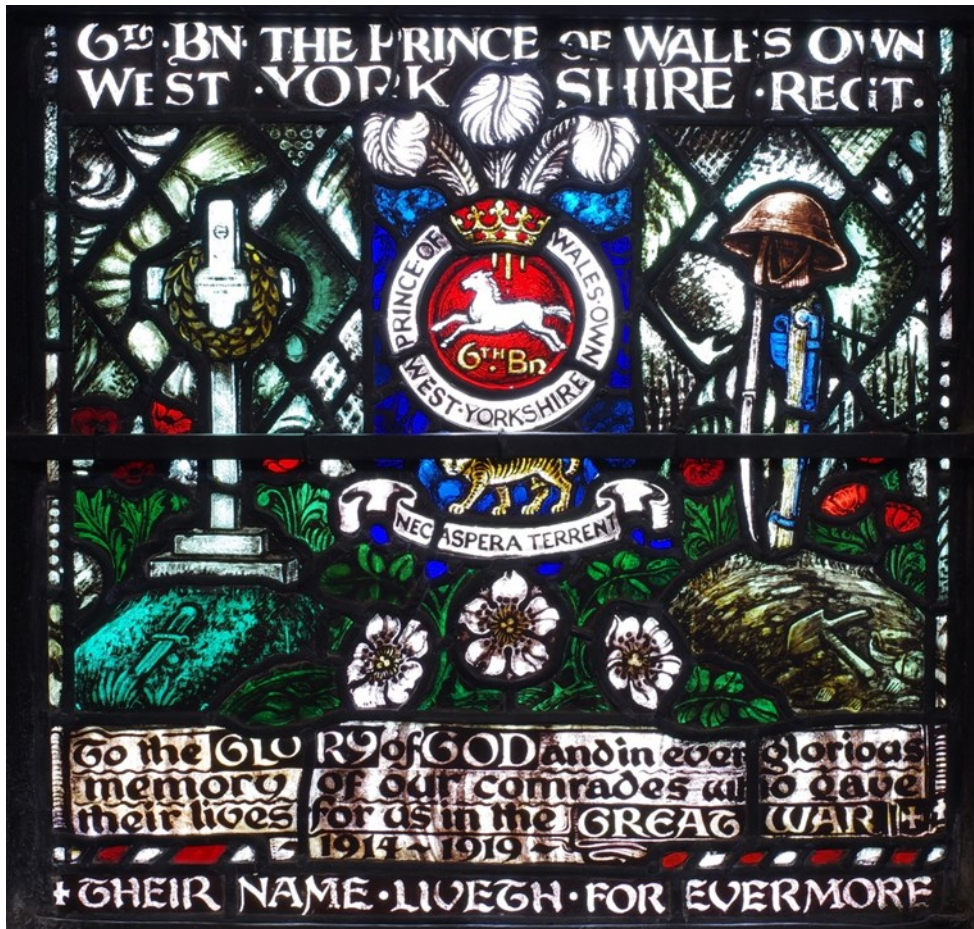
As the day closes he looks up  
and sees Him who made the  
Great Sacrifice.

*Greater love hath no man than this  
that a man laid down his life for his friend.*



## Centre Panel

Below the soldier, between two graves is the badge of the Battalion below the Prince of Wales feathers.



On the left is a soldier's grave behind the Line, upon which his comrades have placed a cross and a wreath. On the other side is a battlefield grave: a soldier has been buried in action and his comrades, in haste yet with reverence, have placed his rifle and helmet to mark the spot. Behind the graves are poppies symbolising battlefield deaths.

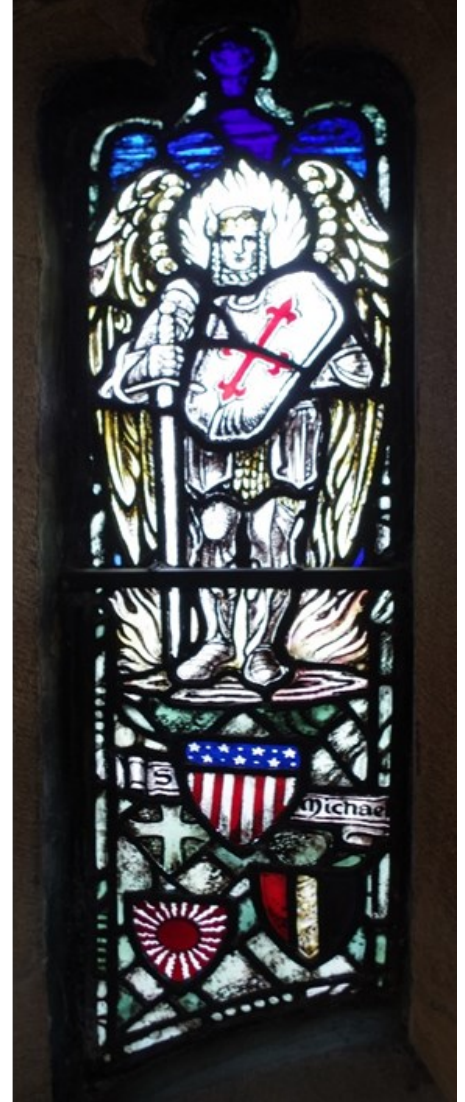
In front are the white roses of Yorkshire above the final inscription:

*To the Glory of God and in ever glorious memory of our comrades who gave their lives for us in the Great War 1914 - 1919.*

**THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE**

## The Upper Tracery

Six panels representing the nations from without the Empire who fought with us



**Left: St. Ambrose of Italy**

with the red, white and green shield of Italy.

**Centre: St. Louis the Soldier Saint and King of France**

with the red white and blue shield of France.

**Right: St. Michael of Belgium**

with shields of Italy, Japan and the USA.



## The Upper Tracery

Six panels representing the nations from without the Empire who fought with us

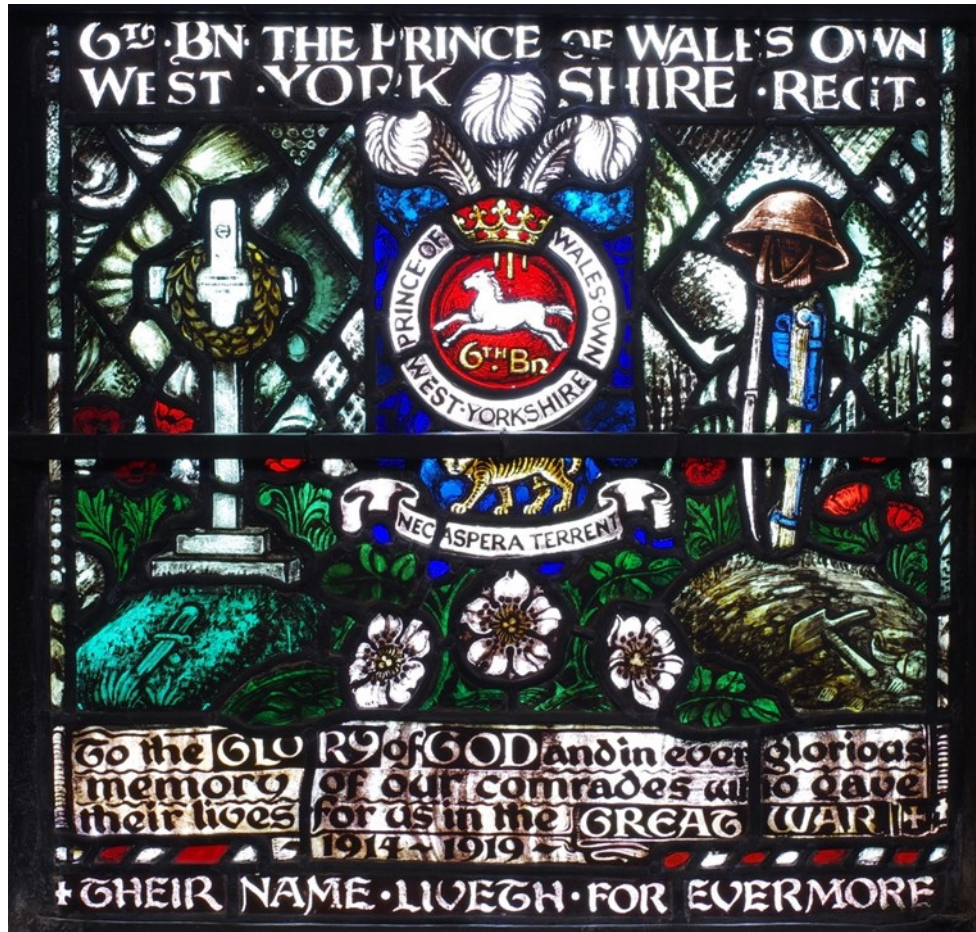


**Left: St George of England**  
with shield of Britain, Portugal and Russia.

**Centre: St. Sava of Serbia**  
with the red, blue and white shield of Serbia.

**Right: St. Methodius of Romania**  
with the red, yellow and blue shield of Romania.

## Notes



**The 6th Battalion**, (Prince of Wales's Own) West Yorkshire Regiment were formed in 1908. They were based at Belle Vue Barracks and the men took part in weekend or evening training and attended an annual camp each August in tented accommodation somewhere in the UK. Whilst the battalion was part of the regular army, their duties were specifically for home defence.

When war was declared in August 1914 the men were offered the opportunity to serve abroad. Most of them chose to do so. They left Bradford for intensive training on 10 August 1914. With other Territorial units they were formed into the **49th (West Riding) Division** which used a white rose as its identification symbol.

The 1/6th Battalion crossed to France in April 1915 and were stationed near Merville, the HQ of the Indian Division in France. After actions on the Yser Canal they were moved to the Somme area in March 1916. They suffered heavy losses at Thiepval from 1 July until late September.



In 1917 they were in the line abutting the Belgian coast at Nieuport and later in the area east of Arras. In 1918, in the Ypres salient, they lost heavily at Kemmel in April with many men being taken prisoner and over 100 killed. At the end of the war the remnants of the Battalion crossed the Rhine as part of the occupation force, eventually returning to England in November 1919 after marking the 1st anniversary of the Armistice with a parade in Cologne.

Territorial units formed a second-line battalion in September 1914. The 2/6th was placed in the **62<sup>nd</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> West Riding) Division**. A pelican with one foot raised was the symbol of the Division. They left for France in early 1917 and fought in the Battles of Bullecourt (April - May) and Cambrai (November). In 1918 they were involved in the 2nd Battle of Arras and the Final Advance in Picardy.

After the Armistice the Division moved through Belgium to guard the Rhine bridgeheads and was stationed at Schleiden. Men of the 2/6th Battalion returned home in batches during 1919.

In March 1920 the two Bradford Territorial battalions were paraded as the new **6th Battalion**, (Prince of Wales's Own) West Yorkshire Regiment. Luncheon was served in the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor and speeches ended with the words:

***"The comradeship which existed . . . wherever this battalion fought, will never be forgotten by officers or men and we in Bradford know it!"***

***The assembly then rose and stood in silence for a few moments in memory of the dead.***

(From *History of the 1/6th Battalion*, EV Tempest)



Produced by Bradford Cathedral  
in partnership with Bradford WW1 Group.



**HOSPITALITY**

**FAITHFULNESS**

**WHOLENESS**

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