



The Green Howards

Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own Yorkshire Regiment
Museum

This award-winning museum is in Richmond, North Yorkshire, at the heart of the Regiment's recruiting area and an easy drive from Boroughbridge. It tells the story of the Regiment from its beginnings to the present day. Artefacts, photographs and film take the story of the Regiment through the Crimean War, the North-West Frontier of India, the Boer War and two World Wars. There is also information on its successor battalion, the 2nd battalion The Yorkshire Regiment

(Green Howards), which was formed when the Green Howards was amalgamated into the Yorkshire Regiment in 2006.

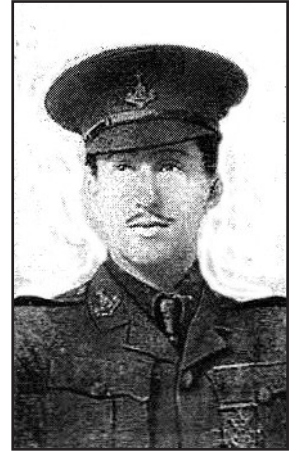
The Tourist Information Point, One Hall Square, Boroughbridge,
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Leaflet RW18 (2009) Written and produced by
Ronald Walker FCB

The Boroughbridge VC



Right: Captain Archie White VC as portrayed in a series of Gallaher cigarette cards honouring WWI winners of the nation's highest honour and (left) the Victoria Cross and Ribbon



Archie Cecil Thomas White was born on 5 October 1891, the first of two sons born to Thomas and Jean White (nee Finlayson) of Norwood House, Langthorpe, Boroughbridge. His father had a gentlemen's outfitters shop in the town.

He was educated at Harrogate Grammar School and won a scholarship to study English Literature at Kings College, London.

After graduation in 1912 he taught at Westminster School.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he was commissioned in the Green Howards and made temporary Lieutenant in the 6th Yorkshires on 10 December 1914. The following July, as his battalion was about to sail to Gallipoli he was promoted temporary Captain. The following month, while he was ill with dysentery, his brother, John Finlayson White, was killed in action at Sulva Bay.

INTO BATTLE

The battalion moved to France in July 1916 and were soon in action. It was at Stuff Redoubt near Thiepval between 27 September and 1 October that Archie's courageous actions, risking his life continuously, won him the Victoria Cross. The announcement was made in the London Gazette on 26 October. He went on to be Mentioned in

Despatches on two occasions and was twice wounded.

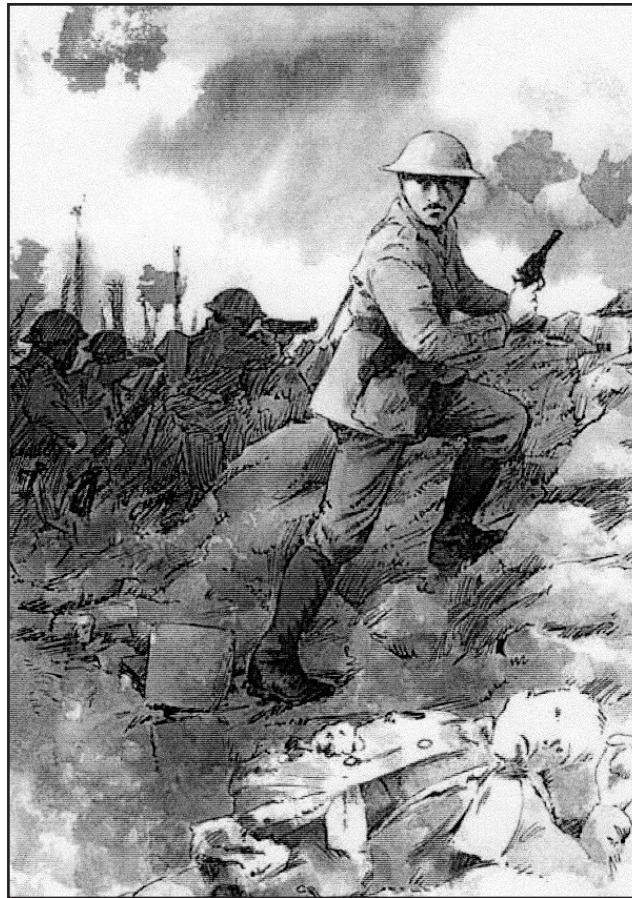
He became a staff officer in France on 30 June 1917 and was appointed Brigade Major on 28 March 1918. In June of that year he was awarded the Military Cross. He was Brigade Major for the Archangel Relief Force from 29 May to 5 October 1919.

A change of direction

Archie relinquished his commission in the Green Howards on 13 November 1920 after he was offered only the peacetime rank of Lieutenant. Instead he joined the newly-formed Army Education Corps with the rank of Major on 25 November 1920. He was then 29.

Major ACT White VC, MC was an instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, between 1921 and 1925. He was Commandant of Queen Victoria's School, Dunblane, from 1925 to 1929 when he returned to Sandhurst as the Senior AEC Instructor. From 1933 he undertook various tours of duty with the AEC in India and Burma until the outbreak of World War II when he joined the Cypher Office as Lt. Colonel.

Between 1940 and 1943 he was



Captain (later Colonel) Archie C. T. White VC, MC, BA

For most conspicuous bravery at Stuff Redoubt on 27 September and 1 October 1916. Captain White was in command of the troops that held the southern and western faces of a redoubt for four days and nights. By his indomitable spirit, great personal courage and skilful dispositions, he held his position under fire of all kinds and against several counter attacks. Although short of supplies and ammunition his determination never wavered. When the enemy attacked in greatly superior numbers he led a counter attack which finally cleared the enemy from the southern and westward faces. He risked his life continually and was the life and soul of the defence.

Command Education Officer of Northern, Southern and AA Commands and then moved to 21st Army Group as Chief Education Officer. He was once again mentioned in despatches on 9 August 1945 and served in South East Asia before retiring as Honorary Colonel on 17 November 1947.

In civvy street

He was the Principal of the City Literary Institute from 1948 to 1953, a member of the Senate of London University, and was appointed a Fellow of Kings College, London.

Colonel White was married to Jean Will and the couple had three daughters (two of whom were twins). His wife died in 1960.

He was appointed Deputy Commandant of the RAEC in 1960, a post he held until 1969. At that time he wrote *The Story of Army Education 1643-1963*. He died peacefully at his home at "Brucklay", Upper Park Road, Camberley, on 20 May 1971. He was cremated at Brookwood Crematorium, Woking, and his ashes were scattered in Tennyson Lake Garden. His medals are on loan to the Green Howards Regimental Museum, Richmond.