

Bury Grammar School Centenary Roll of Honour
Premier Apprentice Fred Hyde, SV 'Galgorm Castle', died on or about
27th February 1917 aged 16



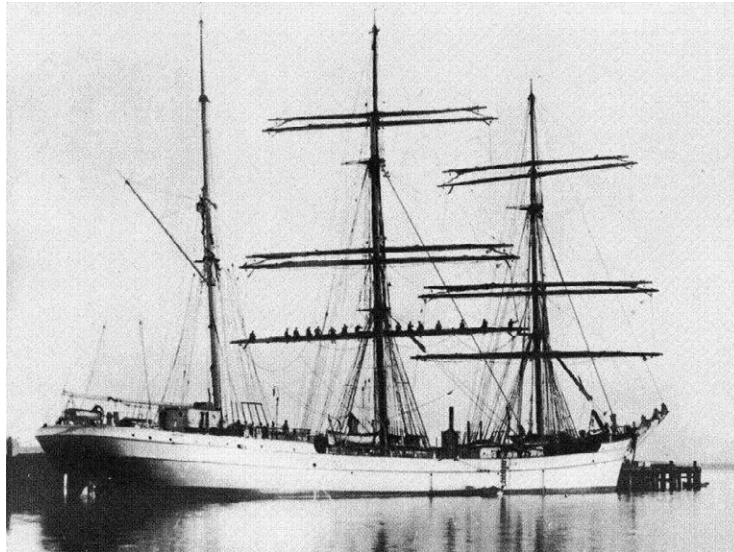
At 16 years 9 months old when he died, Fred Hyde is the youngest person commemorated on the Bury Grammar School war memorial. The oldest, 54 year-old Richard Hopkinson, a driver in the Canadian Field Artillery, died of peritonitis in July 1916. Fred Hyde was born in London on 21st May 1900, the son of William Hyde (32), who originally came from Eccles in Lancashire and his wife Mary (33), a native of Bury. In the 1901 Census the family is recorded as living at 16 Errington Road, Paddington. William Hyde's occupation is given as 'Farrier'. The couple had two older sons: Walter, aged 10, who had been born in Manchester and Harry, aged 5, born in Kent. By the time of the 1911 Census, William Hyde had died and the family was living at 'New Brook House', 51 Bolton Road, Sudden in Rochdale. Fred started at Bury Grammar Junior School in Form II on 15th September 1911. He was a member of Kay House. He left on 3rd July 1914 in Form Transitus, a month before the outbreak of war. The Admission Register records his occupation taken up after leaving as 'Mercantile Marine'. Boys even younger than Fred Hyde joined the Mercantile Marine (later known as the Merchant Navy) as apprentices in this period. By law, Masters of British ships over 80 tons were required to carry a certain number of indentured apprentices in order to help train the next generation of sailors.

Fred's older brother Harry, who had not attended Bury Grammar School, enlisted in 15th Canadian Infantry Battalion (48th Royal Highlanders of Canada) in Valcartier, Quebec on 22nd September 1914. Like many young men from the northwest of England he had gone to seek his fortune in Canada in the years before the Great War. He became part of the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which arrived on the Western Front in February 1915.



A press clipping showing Fred Hyde's brother, Harry (Canadian Virtual War Memorial)

Private Harry Hyde was killed during the 2nd Battle of Ypres on 24th April 1915, aged 20. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres.



SV 'Galgorm Castle' (www.wrecksite.eu)

In February 1917 Fred Hyde was a member of the 24-strong crew of the SV 'Galgorm Castle' sailing from Buenos Aires, Argentina to the port of Queenstown (now Cobh) In Ireland. The 'Galgorm Castle' was a 1,596 ton steel bark sailing vessel built in Belfast in 1892 and owned by John Stewart and Co, London. The ship was sailing into very dangerous waters: on 1st February the Germans had announced the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare. Henceforth any ship entering a huge area of sea around Britain and France would be liable to attack without warning. Sailing ships were particularly vulnerable because their sails made them easy to spot and they were reliant on the fickle power of the wind to evade any attacker. On 27th February SV 'Galgorm Castle' was intercepted 90 miles west of Fastnet by the German submarine U-49, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Richard Hartmann. U-49 had already sunk two vessels earlier that day: the British steamer 'Tritonia' and the Italian vessel 'Luigino B'. Hartmann recorded in his War Diary:

6:40 p.m. - Surfaced, sailing vessel stopped by gunfire, closed by on surface.

8:34 p.m., wind SSW 6, rising force, heavy swell - Sent boarding party with explosives on board "G A L G O R M E", 1,500 grt, with maize from Buenos Aires for Queenstown. Sank ship with 3 explosive charges, sinking rapidly. Remarkable is that most of the crew are Scandinavians.

Survivors from the 'Galgorm Castle' reported that the U-Boat opened fire without warning from a distance of two miles. The crew took to two lifeboats: the ship's Master, Captain Frampton, his wife and ten men in one and the remaining twelve crewmen, including Fred Hyde, in the other. Unfortunately, in the darkness the boats became separated. The captain's boat was found the next day by a passing steamer. Overnight the sea had become rough and three men had had to bail out water continually in order to keep the boat from sinking. The other lifeboat was not recovered until 7th March, by which time only one of the men aboard, a Russian, was still alive. According to one account, the boat capsized. Four men drowned immediately. The eight others clung to the upturned boat but all but one succumbed to exposure before they could be rescued.

A list of the crew members who died alongside Fred Hyde in the second lifeboat shows both the multinational nature of the 'Galgorm Castle's' complement as well as the extreme youth of some of them:

Thomas Lloyd Davies (19). Third Mate. Son of Thomas and Sarah Janes Davies, of Glyder, Manorbier, Pembrokeshire.

Cornelius De Rijcke (16). Ordinary Seaman. Son of Sophia van Opdurp and the late Ferdinandus B. de Rijcke. Born in Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

Frederick Arthur Fuller (15). Apprentice. Son of Mrs. Annie Fuller, of 5, Wellington Rd., Westgate-on-Sea, Kent

Nigel Alan Hockley (17). Apprentice. Son of Edward John and Ada Hockley. His father was a Clerk in Holy Orders and in 1911 he was a pupil at St John's Foundation School for the sons of Poor Clergy of the Church of England in Leatherhead

William Jackson (18). Ordinary Seaman. Born in the USA

E.A. Johnson (47) Seaman. Born in Sweden

Jens Narvig (32). Seaman. Born in Norway.

Arne Rudverg (22). Able Seaman. Born in Norway.

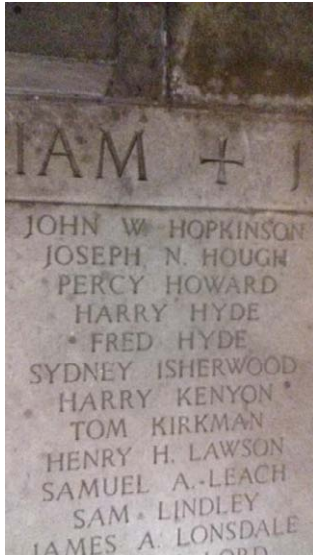
Nicholas William Hitchins Rundell (57). Mate. Husband of Emma Jane Rundell of Tywardreath, Cornwall.

Denis Walker (32). Second Cook. Born in the USA.

All have no grave but the sea and are commemorated on the Tower Hill Memorial in London.



The Tower Hill Memorial (CWGC)



In its report of him being missing at sea, the 'Rochdale Observer' incorrectly recorded Fred Hyde's age as '15'. Until recent years, his entry on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database gave his age as '18' but this has been corrected, apparently on the basis of information supplied to the Commission by a researcher. Unfortunately, the CWGC has been unable to confirm who this researcher was.

Left: The Hyde brothers, Harry and Fred, are commemorated on the war memorial at St. Aidan's Church, Sudden in Rochdale. (Photo: Ann Montgomery)

Nearly 500,000 tons of shipping was sunk in February 1917 and by April, when a staggering 860,000 tons was lost, Britain was down to six weeks supply of wheat. Losses steadily fell as the convoy system and other anti-submarine measures were adopted. The U-Boat campaign played a crucial role in bringing the neutral USA into the war on the allied side. U-49 eventually accounted for 38 allied vessels amounting to 86,000 tons of shipping. She was rammed and sunk in the Bay of Biscay on 11th September 1917 with the loss of Richard Hartmann and his entire crew.

Sources: Bury Grammar School Archives; Bury Archives (Adam Carter); Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Canadian Virtual War Memorial; 'Bury Guardian'; 'Rochdale Observer', www.wrecksite.eu ; www.martimequest.com ; Contributors to the Great War Forum; Steve Dunn; Ann Montgomery.