

**C DFR Records relating to John George Coope Rowley, a member  
of the Rowley (Opticians) family of Hull  
1917-1919**

**Accession number:** 15/72

**Historical Background/Biographical Background:** John George Coope Rowley was born in 1899 and served in the Army during the First World War. His Army Number was 48265 and he joined the Yorkshire Regiment aged 17 years, 11months. He is connected to the Rowley (Opticians) family of Hull.

**Custodial history:** These records are of unknown provenance but were found amongst the Local Studies Library material c. 2010

**Description:** John George Coope Rowley was born in 1899 and served in the Army during the First World War. The majority of the items in this collection are letters sent to his mother, Annie Wood Rowley whilst on active service. His letters are all signed from 'George.' There are also two service medals. John George Coope Rowley was born in 1899 and served in the Army during the First World War.

**Extent:** 6 folders, 2 items

**Related material:** Material relating to other prisoners of war during the First World War can be found at C TCVC/4 & C DBHR

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

C DFR/1	Bundle of letters from John George Coope Rowley to his mother, Annie Wood Rowley. During 1917 he was stationed at the Town Hall, West Hartlepool, Scotton Camp-Catterick Bridge (Yorks). 1 folder, 10 pieces	9 Mar 1917- 2 Dec 1917
C DFR/2	Bundle of letters from John George Coope Rowley to his mother, Annie Wood Rowley. During 1918 he was stationed at the Town Hall, West Hartlepool and in France. He was captured and became a prisoner of war at Skalmierschutz POW Camp in Poland in late May/ early June 1918. This was a very large camp and was first used for Russian and Romanian prisoners but from early 1918 they also took British and American prisoners of war. According to a letter dated 19 Jun 1918, he was allowed to write a postcard every Sunday and a letter twice a month. By late June 1918 he had been moved to Sprottau POW camp which was also in Poland. This camp also had a Lazarett (infirmary) which was used for prisoners with TB but it is not known whether John George Coope Rowley had this condition. His	12 Feb 1918- 17 Nov 1918

Hull History Centre: Records relating to John George Coope Rowley

mother was living at 4 Cromwell Street, Hull  
1 folder, 45 pieces

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| C DFR/3 | Bundle of letters from John George Coope Rowley to his mother, Annie Wood Rowley. During 1918 he was based in Paris as a repatriated prisoner. By the middle of May he was back in Poland, in a city called Ludz, doing an Army clerical job returning to Paris and travelling to Warsaw later in May and then back to Paris and again to Ludz in late June. He arrived back in London in August 1919 on route home to Hull<br>1 folder, 36 pieces   | 10 Apr 1919-<br>8 Aug 1919 |
| C DFR/4 | Bundle of letters from John George Coope Rowley to his mother, Annie Wood Rowley. The exact dates that these letters were written has not been recorded. Some are written from the Town Hall, West Hartlepool, Scotton Camp-Catterick Bridge (Yorks) and from France<br>1 folder, 14 pieces  | c. 1917-1919               |
| C DFR/5 | Bundle of letters from John George Coope Rowley to his brother, Edward (Eddie) Harry Rowley. Eddie was 2 years younger than John. Three of the letters were written when John was at Sprottau POW camp in Poland during 1918.<br>1 folder, 11 pieces   | 15 Mar 1918-<br>6 Oct 1918 |
| C DFR/6 | Miscellaneous bundle of letters from/to other individuals from/to John George Coope Rowley. Includes a letter dated 12 Nov 1917 from a Mr Bowers of The School, Warwick enclosing a newspaper cutting regarding the death of Lieut Norman James Kerr in France, son of Mr & Mrs James Kerr, Sunnybank. There is also a letter from the London Midland and Scottish Railway Co., Commercial Department, King Edward Street dated 7 Apr 1931, a postcard dated 20 Aug 1921 from Edna and a letter from John to his Uncle dated 19 Jan 1917<br>1 folder, 7 pieces | 1917-1931                  |
| C DFR/7 | Victory Medal engraved 'The Great War for Civilisation 1914-1919' presented to 48265 Private J.G. C Rowley Yorkshire Regiment. It was decided that each of the allies should each issue their own bronze victory medal with a similar design, similar equivalent wording and identical ribbon. The British medal was designed by W. McMillan. The front depicts a winged classical   | 1914-1919                  |

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figure representing victory. Approximately 5.7 million victory medals were issued. Interestingly, eligibility for this medal was more restrictive and not everyone who received the British War Medal also received the Victory Medal. The recipient's service number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim.

1 item

C DFR/8

British War Medal presented to 48265 Private J.G. C Rowley Yorkshire Regiment. Established on 26th July 1919 this silver or bronze medal was awarded to officers and men of the British and Imperial Forces who either entered a theatre of war or entered service overseas between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918 inclusive. This was later extended to services in Russia, Siberia and some other areas in 1919 and 1920. Approximately 6.5 million British War Medals were issued. The front (obv or obverse) of the medal depicts the head of George V. The recipient's service number, rank, name and unit was impressed on the rim.

1914-1918

1 item