

H. C. & A. C. SUPPORTERS' CLUB

"RUSS" PEPPERELL'S TESTIMONIAL

DANCE

CAMBRIDGE ROAD BATHS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 1950

Dancing 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

AUB. HIRST AND HIS WESTBOURNE PLAYERS

GIRLS!!

WHO IS TO BE FARTOWN'S

**RUGBY
QUEEN?**

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A. C. Fartown, with name and
address.

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Pearson) and Free Stand Ticket
to the winner.

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up.

Closing Date January 31st.

To be judged at this Dance

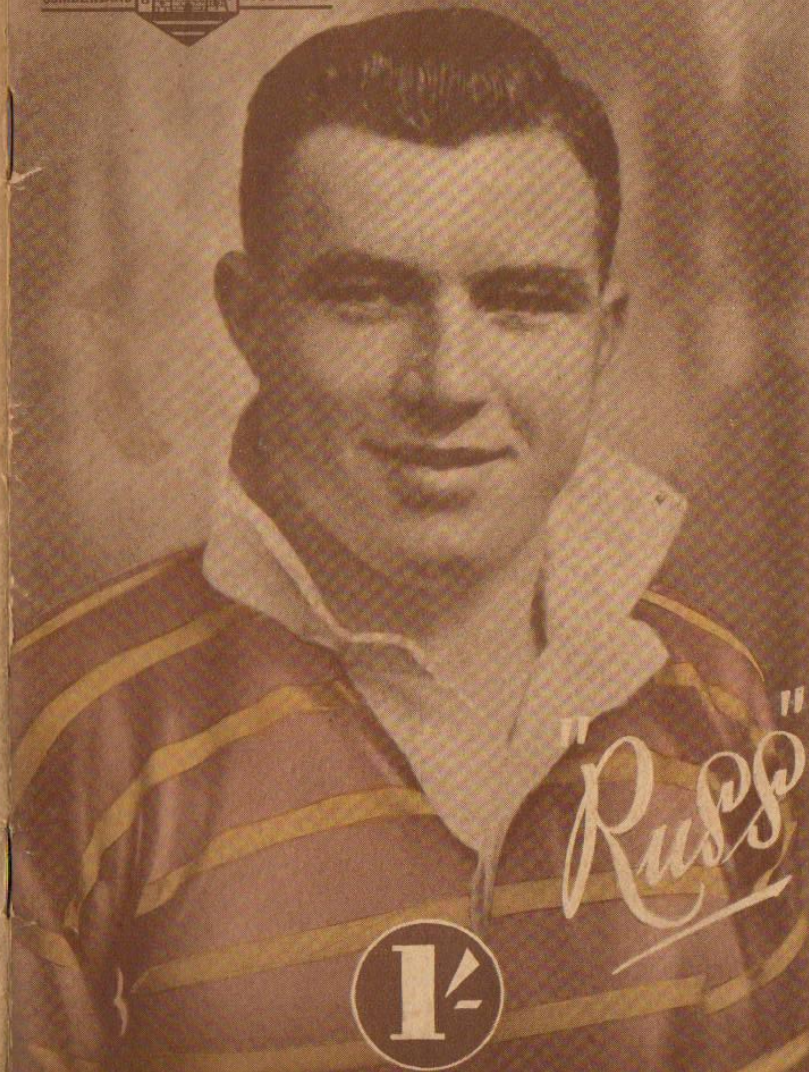
M.C.'s :

L. COOPER, J. HUNTER and P. DEVERY

Fartown players will be in attendance

Spot Prizes, etc. Licensed Bar Refreshments

ADMISSION by ticket 4/- at the door 5/-



"Russ"

The football career of George Russell Pepperell, in words and photographs, with detailed records of his achievements in the Rugby League game for Huddersfield, Cumberland and England.

COMPILED BY

A. N. GAULTON

in association with members of H. C. & A. C. Supporters' Committee

FOREWORD BY

WILFRED STOKER

(Huddersfield C. & A. C.)

PUBLISHED BY

The Huddersfield C. & A. C. Supporters' Club

The Committee of the Huddersfield C. and A. C. Supporters' Club, express thanks to the compilers, the photographers, and the Rugby League players and officials for their contributions, also to our printers for their help and co-operation in the publication of this souvenir booklet.

FOREWORD

Who is this fellow "Russ?" Rugby League supporters of Huddersfield need no introduction, but to others less familiar, he is George Russell Pepperell—a quiet unassuming chap, a good sportsman, a star player in our great Rugby League game, and a gentleman on and off the field—in other words, a living symbol of the Huddersfield club's great tradition "all that is best in sport."

I know of no other player more worthy of his club's decision to award him a testimonial match in recognition of his services to the club and the game. It therefore gave me much pleasure to be a member of the committee that made this decision and at the same time, in my capacity as secretary of the Huddersfield Supporters' club, be able to assure my colleagues that the members and officials of the Supporters' club would do all they could to help the testimonial fund.

This souvenir booklet entitled "Russ" is a Supporters' club effort, and is intended to serve a dual purpose. Firstly, as a tribute to a good "Fartowner" it places on record, for all time, his achievements with club, county and country up to-date. Secondly it gives everyone an opportunity of contributing to the testimonial, and at the same time obtaining value for money by way of an interesting souvenir booklet.

A few months after Russ. Pepperell joined the Huddersfield club our country was at war. His football career, like many other players of his generation, suffered in consequence. Although he was able to play many games for his club during the first two seasons, it was generally a case of playing in the position that the club needed him most. Upon his return after the war, he again became the club's utility man, helping his club in their team building efforts, curbing his own desires for a settled position in the team. Although he may have missed many international honours because he was for so long the "utility" man of the team, the swing of the pendulum may yet recompense him, by this same versatility earning for him a place in the team to visit Australia this summer.

Before passing you forward to the pages of the book proper I ask you to join with me in wishing "Russ" a highly successful testimonial, and express the hope that he will be the proud wearer of the "claret and gold" for many years to come.

WILFRED STOKER.

Russell Pepperell

Only a little over two years has gone by since the Fartown club granted a testimonial to Stanley Pepperell for his services rendered. Stanley was unable to take part in his own testimonial match, but his younger brother, Russell, played on the right wing that day. "Russ" did not know then that he would be having a testimonial himself within the space of a few years, but the General Committee of the Huddersfield C. & A. C. recently applied for, and obtained permission from the Rugby League authorities to reward yet another of their sound club-men.

George Russell Pepperell has come a long way since his early days up in Cumberland, where he played schools rugby and then followed Stanley into the Seaton club side. He even occupied the same position as his brother, scrum half. We now find him with international, county and club honours conferred upon him and perhaps, who knows, an even greater honour yet to come. But more of that anon.

Being a Pepperell, Russell just had to play rugby of course. Like his two brothers he took to the game as a duck takes to water and is at his happiest when out on the field in the thick of the fray. He soon became a star in inter-schools football and has maintained the Pepperell standard and tradition ever since.

While he was playing with Seaton they were in the Cumberland Shield final for three seasons running. Another well-known Rugby League footballer who played for Seaton in those days was Bill Ivison, now Workington Town's loose forward. Bill frequently played stand-off to Russell and the two of them still discuss their early games together whenever they meet.

Season 1938-39 was to be Russell's last for Seaton, and a very auspicious one it proved. He played for the Cumberland county amateurs against both Lancashire and Yorkshire, and then came his greatest honour to date—captaincy of the England amateur team against France at Bordeaux. He was, by now, catching the eye of senior clubs, but there was only one of the Northern League sides he wanted to join.

Russell played his trial game at Fartown against York Reserves and he turned out at stand-off. His scrum-half was Harry Royal, who is now with Batley, and the Fartown "A" team won the match by 31 points to 3. Russell didn't

score, but he played his part in the victory, both on attack and defence.

Huddersfield had an advantage over their rivals in that they already had Stanley on their books. He had settled down nicely in the town and was playing great football at the time. "Stanley's team is good enough for me," said Russell when he fixed up to come to Fartown. That was in December, 1938, but an arrangement was made whereby "Russ" stayed up in Cumberland for the remainder of that season and started playing regularly at Fartown in 1939-40.

Russell got a fore-taste of cup-tie football in February, 1939. In the first round of the Rugby League Challenge cup competition, Seaton were drawn to meet Bradford Northern at Odsal Stadium. The game could not be played on its originally appointed date owing to bad weather, but when a resumption of football was possible a bus-load of young miners made the journey to Odsal.

They gave Northern a few early shocks, too, despite the fact that their captain, Bell, had to stand down with influenza. Russell kicked off and Seaton immediately went to the attack. They had two penalty kicks from favourable positions but unfortunately their goal-kicker was off the target. Then, from a scrum near the Bradford line, Pepperell cut clean through and looked a likely scorer—only to stumble when the try seemed to be there.

It was, obviously, not Seaton's lucky day, yet they had good reasons to be satisfied at half time. They had held the stronger and more experienced Bradford team to a margin of 7-11. As was only to be expected, this couldn't last, and in the second half the Odsal men forged ahead to become ultimate winners by 37 points to 7.

Bradford paid Seaton the compliment of fielding their strongest side and among the men the Cumbrians had to face were Carmichael, Winnard, Gilbert, Grainge, Higson, Whitcombe and Foster. The Everton association football team were interested spectators at this cup-tie.

From junior to senior football

And so Russell's junior days came to an end. More exacting times and more exciting experiences lay ahead. For young Pepperell, as for so many other lads, they were not always entirely connected with football.

Season 1939-40 found Russell starting off in the Fartown Reserve team. On the day before England entered the war

he played against Featherstone Rovers "A" at Post Office Road. Football was "blacked out" on the following Saturday, while the nation re-adjusted itself to its new conditions and requirements. A week later, however, a series of friendly games were arranged between Rugby League clubs, and Huddersfield's team sheet for the game against Hunslet at Fartown included the name G. R. Pepperell among the seniors for the first time.

He did not play in that match though, but had to wait another week for his debut. This was at Odsal Stadium, Bradford, on September 23rd, 1939, when he occupied the full back position. There were two pairs of brothers in that Fartown team, for apart from Stanley and Russell Pepperell, Kenneth and Gwyn Gronow also turned out. Bradford Northern won an enjoyable game by the narrow margin of 20 points to 18.

It is interesting, on looking back, to record that although the match was played at Odsal Stadium, Fartown members were admitted free on production of their membership cards. The Fartown team was: G. R. Pepperell; Pimblett, Fiddes, W. T. Davies, Johnson; S. V. Pepperell, Grahame; Sherwood, Gray, G. Gronow, K. Gronow, Shaw and Bailey.

Although "Russ" was on the losing side in his first game there was a very different state of affairs in his second. The war-time Yorkshire Emergency League had been formed, and Huddersfield's programme opened with a visit from Keighley on September 30th.

The Lawkholmers were well and truly beaten and the huge total of 74 points was amassed against them. Russell, playing at full back again, had two out of the sixteen tries. He was now, obviously, a "regular," but his call-up into the forces restricted his appearances somewhat as it was not always possible to get away for the Saturday game of football.

Half-way through the following season (1940-41) Huddersfield secured the services of Billy Belshaw, the Warrington international, as a "guest" player. Belshaw took over the full back rôle and Russell began to show his value as a utility man. He played anywhere and everywhere, always without protest and always giving whole-heartedly of his best, whatever position he was playing in.

In the last match of that season, playing on the left wing against Hull at Fartown, he recorded his first "hat trick" scoring feat with three tries and a goal.

A try to be remembered

Bradford's visit to Fartown for a Yorkshire Cup tie in November, 1941, produced an all-Pepperell try that will long be remembered by those who saw it. Russell, again on the left wing, got the ball just in front of the Committee boxes at half way and set off on a zig-zag run which took him clean through the Northern defence. A timely pass to brother Stanley inside the "25" line found the full back hopelessly beaten and the elder Pepperell crossed between the posts. The value of this effort can be adjudged from the fact that Huddersfield only won the match by 11 points to 10.

A few months later Russell had a leg operation which laid him up for several weeks and left him chafing at the inaction. He only got one more game in with the Fartowners that season and that was up in Cumberland. He partnered Stanley at half back in a Whitehaven hospital cup match. Again the opponents were Bradford Northern and again Huddersfield won by a single point (7-6).

Season 1942-43 was to be Russell's last in England for a little while. It opened with what he describes as one of the proudest moments he has known in his football career. That was when he took the field at Fartown in the charity cup game with Halifax on August 29th. Alongside him in the famous "claret and gold" jerseys were both his brothers, Stanley and Albert, the latter making his first appearance for Huddersfield.

All three "Peps" had a very good afternoon on that occasion, which was a memorable one for Russell, and which was to be repeated in the Christmas day match against Halifax later in the year.

During this season Huddersfield reached the final of the Yorkshire Challenge cup competition. All cup-ties were played on the two-leg principle and Russell turned out in all the qualifying games but only played in the first leg of the final tie. This was at Crown Flatt and, with the score standing at 4-0 in Dewsbury's favour right on time, Fartowners were feeling content in view of their ground advantage the following week. But before the referee could blow his whistle Roy Francis got the ball after a Fartown attack had broken down and raced the length of the field for a sensational last-minute try.

Whether that try had its psychological effect a week later, and whether Huddersfield would have overtaken Dewsbury's score had it remained at four points we shall never know. As it was the Fartowners could only win the second game by 2 points to nil, and so the Yorkshire challenge cup went to Dewsbury. In January the Northern Command Rugby League team met the Yorkshire cup winners and Russell was a member of the army team.

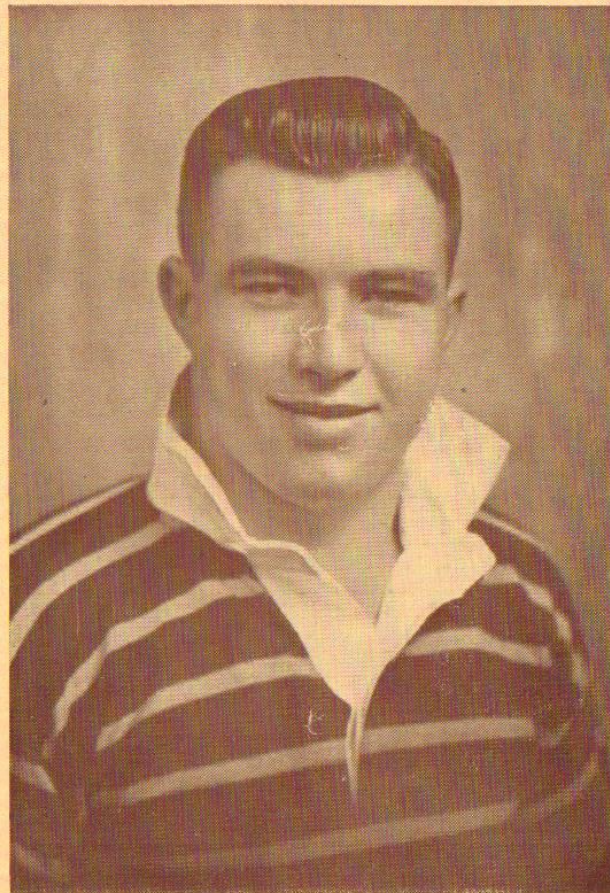
From senior to international football

His first senior international recognition came in the February of 1943 when he was selected as reserve to travel for the England v. Wales match at Wigan. It was the fore-runner of many similar appointments. Russell called up at Fartown for his boots on the Saturday morning and the late Mr. C. L. Reynard saw him on his way with expressions of good wishes and the hope that he would get a game. But it was not to be. All the team reported fit and "Russ" had to watch from the touch line side. He had four years to go and a great deal of ground to cover before he was to pull on the England jersey.

Russell's last game for Huddersfield before he was drafted overseas was a top four decider at Odsal. Huddersfield had not done too well in the Emergency League by Christmas, but the year 1943 saw a winning run embarked upon which took them up among the leaders. "Russ" played his part in this advance, usually as a wing man, and in successive games he scored three tries against Hull (at home) and four tries against York (away).

Owing to the difficulty in completing war-time fixture lists there had, during this season, to be a play-off to decide the third and fourth positions in the league table. One of these deciding games was between Bradford Northern and Huddersfield, the Odsal side winning a close encounter by 16-13. "Russ" played a good game and made the last Fartown try which kept the issue tight and gave the "claret and gold boys" an outside chance of pulling off a surprise victory.

The team fielded by Huddersfield in this match was: Belshaw; Peake, Fiddes, G. R. Pepperell, Batten; W. T. Davies, Grahame; McManus, Cotton, Taylor, Wagstaff, Booth and Chapman. Eight of them were "guest" players. Eric Batten had not signed for Northern when this game was



"Russ"

Greaves



Greaves

“Russ” Pepperell—English International

played, of course, and was on Hunslet's books. Notable “guests” in the Bradford team were Jimmy Stott, Dockar, Goodfellow, Stan Brogden and Gwyn Gronow—the latter a Fartowner on loan to Northern.

“Russ” was the leading Huddersfield try scorer that season and was second only to Belshaw in the club points list.

War service and “incidental” football

Before football time came round again Russell was on the other side of the world. He had joined the army in December, 1939, and served in the Royal Artillery. He was stationed at Catterick for a while and went over to France early in 1940, returning to this country a few weeks later via Dunkirk.

While with the Northern Command he was a regular choice for representative army matches, both League and Union, and when he was later moved down to Watford he played with and against many well-known names in the Rugby Union world.

In January, 1943, history was made when for the first time a Rugby League team met a Rugby Union team. The match was played at Headingley under Rugby Union rules and there were fifteen players on each side. The league men won by 18 points to 11 and scored six tries in doing so. Their team was: G. R. Pepperell (Huddersfield); L. R. Francis (Barrow), H. Mills (Hull), J. Stott (St. Helens), R. Lloyd (Castleford); W. Thornton (Hunslet), H. Royal (Dewsbury); D. Prosser (Leeds), L. L. White (Hunslet), L. White (York), E. Tattersfield (Leeds), K. Jubb (Leeds), W. G. Chapman (Warrington), H. Bedford (Hull) and T. Foster (Bradford N.).

Not long after the Odsal game already referred to, Russell left England again, this time for South Africa, East Africa (where he was attached to the native forces for a while), Ceylon, Burma and India. A regular trip round the world, but no “Cook's tour!”

Despite the great heat in these countries the English forces persisted in playing their favourite sports, soccer and rugby—though the latter had to be nearly all Union. Russell remembers one great day he had in India, when his team won the Calcutta cup, played for between the various stations. One of his opponents in that final game was a

fellow-Fartowner, Tommy Clapham, who was representing his R.A.F. station side. Press cuttings on that game nominate Tommy and "Russ" as the outstanding men on their respective sides. This competition was played under Union rules.

Russell turned his hand—or rather his feet—to soccer as well. He played at outside right and represented his divisional side against Denis Compton's touring team. The latter was composed of soccer internationals and was sent out to help keep up the morale of troops who were out of touch with the old familiar sights and faces.

Back again at Fartown

Not until March, 1946, did "Russ" renew his Fartown acquaintanceships. His first match after his return was at Castleford and he played in most of the remaining fixtures, usually as centre to Jeff Bawden (then on the left wing) although after Jock Anderson was injured at Barrow "Pep" deputised on the right wing. He was in the latter position for the high-scoring Easter game against Swinton at Fartown, when Bawden scored nearly half of Huddersfield's 76 points. Russell's share was two tries.

The Fartowners had reached the league final at the end of the season but were defeated by Wigan at Maine Road. "Russ" took part in the play-off semi-final against Wakefield Trinity at Fartown when a record attendance (since broken) was recorded. He pulled a muscle in this match, however, and was unavailable for the final at Maine Road. A great disappointment, this, but there was to be some recompense three years later when he was in the Fartown team which defeated Warrington in a "thriller" on the same ground.

Honours began to come his way in season 1946-47. All three "Peps" were chosen for Cumberland against Yorkshire in the early weeks and great was their disappointment when, owing to injuries, only Albert could turn out—and he defied the doctor to do so! Their turn came later in the season though, when they all played against Lancashire at Barrow. Since then all three have, when fit, been regularly included in the County side, but injuries have again taken their toll and only on two further occasions have they all been available at the same time.

Russell gained his ambition of playing for England in May, 1947. He was chosen against France at Headingley on the right wing, displacing Eric Batten. This game was scheduled for March 8th, but had to be postponed owing to bad weather and eventually took place on May 17th. There were some fears that the England team may be altered for the new date, but the selectors stuck to their original choice so all was well. The game was not a very brilliant one and "Russ" didn't have a great deal to do, but England won the international tournament as the result of a 5-2 victory.

Russell's second game for England was at Swansea later in the same year and he got his chance of qualifying for his England "cap" owing to Jimmy Stott having to drop out of the side. His versatility has been carried into the international arena, for his four appearances for his country to date have been made at wing, centre (twice) and stand-off. And taking county games into the account, full back can be added as well!

In December, 1947, Russell was chosen as reserve to travel for the England test team who were meeting New Zealand at Odsal Stadium in the third and last test of the series. When the Australians were here twelve months ago he was again given the onerous position of "odd man out" among the backs. He had some good fun and a grand time in joining the pre-match training and "get-togethers" of the England team but would dearly have liked to have played in at least one of the tests. Perhaps your turn will come "Russ"!

To complete a variety of appearances in the international sphere, he played for the British Empire team which toured France in May, 1949. This side was composed mainly of colonials—a sort of fore-runner of the present Other Nationalities. Only three Englishmen were included, McKeating, Ivison and Pepperell, but he hadn't much chance to get homesick with Hunter, Devery, Cooper, Daly, Banks and Valentine also in the party.

Having emulated brother Stanley in attaining international status, one of Russell's hopes for the future is that Albert will continue the tradition and also wear the England jersey some day.

These honours have brought a fair amount of travelling for "Russ" and he has made six footballing trips to France.

Is the greatest trip of all in front of him? Two days before the testimonial game against Wigan at Fartown the Australian tour selectors will announce the names of the twenty-six players who are to represent the Old Country "down-under."

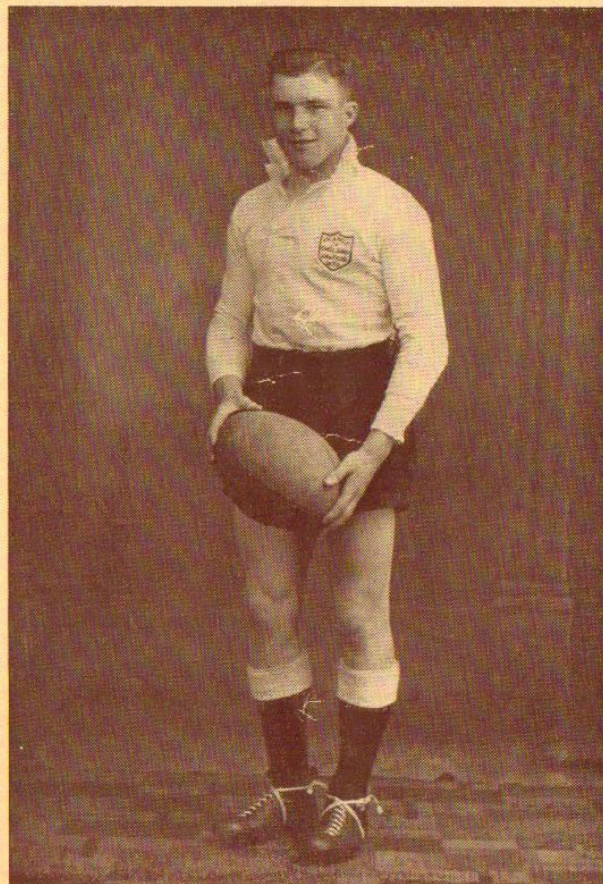
There will be great disappointment, over a wider area than just Huddersfield, if Russell Pepperell is not among them. There are other qualifications, apart from footballing ability, to be taken into consideration in selecting a tour team to travel round the world. The men go as representatives of their country and live under the glare and spotlight of publicity while on tour. The type of fellow who will acquit himself with distinction and credit off the field of play, as well as on it, is the sort that is needed. Such a one is "Russ" Pepperell.

Nothing more need be added here to the remarks made on another page by Alex Fiddes—and who is in a better position to judge than the former Fartown captain? Sufficient to say that while many R.L. followers are counting "Pep" among the tour "certainties," Russell is modestly crossing his fingers and continuing to give of his best in the hope that he will merit selection.

Some details of Russell's versatility are given elsewhere in this booklet. He has played some great games for Huddersfield in the various positions he has occupied and it is possible that if you asked three or four Fartown supporters which they consider to be his best position they might give you three or four different answers. "Russ," himself, while willing to "have a go" anywhere, likes centre three-quarter and stand-off. He took over the latter position as a regular in the Fartown team from Pat Devery when the latter moved back to centre to partner Lionel Cooper.

His greatest game

Few Fartowners will argue with the statement that Russell played his "best ever" game for Huddersfield in the off half position at Headingley. The match was a Rugby League challenge cup-tie on March 19th, 1949. The "claret and gold" boys won by 20 points to 9 and gave a delightful exhibition of the handling game. Russell was the outstanding player on the field that day. He was the spearhead of the Fartown attack and the Rock of Gibraltar in defence on which Leeds foundered and were ultimately sunk.



Henderson

"Russ" Pepperell—Amateur International

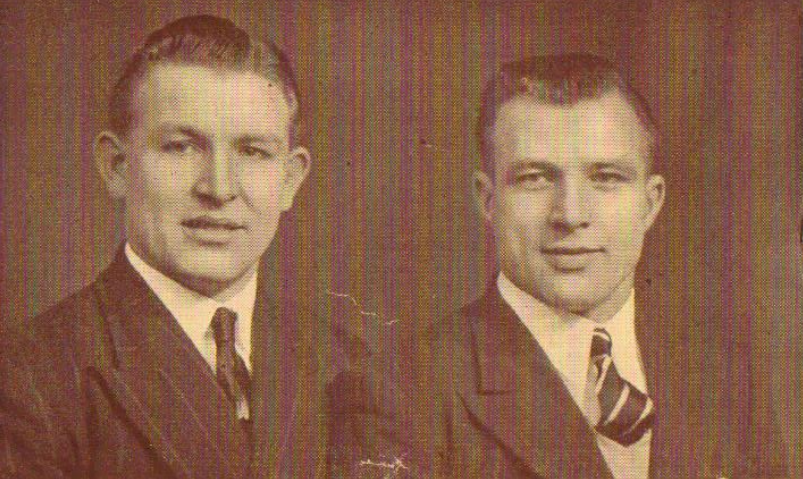
Huddersfield—The Rugby League Champions



Turton

Winners of the Rugby League and Yorkshire League Championships 1948-49

S. Williams H. Lockwood B. Gronow W. Cunningham H. V. Wood J. Wood Beaver A. Dews W. Stoker
 R. Nicholson J. Maiden J. C. Daly R. S. Robson D. D. Valentine J. L. Davies I. A. Owens G. V. Hughes
 A. Archbell G. Wilson J. Anderson J. Bawden P. C. Devery L. W. Cooper J. C. Hunter M. Meek A. E. Fiddes
 S. V. Pepperell W. Banks The Yorkshire League Cup The Rugby League Championship Cup G. R. Pepperell A. Ferguson



"Johnny" Hunter

"Russ" Pepperell

Greaves

in "Civvy" street . . .

British—Australian Comradeship

. . . and football

"Russ" Pepperell

"Pat" Devery

Oldham Chron.



Then there was a Good Friday game against Barrow at Fartown a year earlier. Johnny Hunter was unavailable and Russell was moved to full back. He was up against Joe Jones who was in great form. But so was Russell, and the two of them had a great duel and gave a well-nigh flawless exhibition of rival full back play.

There have been many good tries among the eighty-odd Russell has scored in his first-class career. He recalls that several gave him great pleasure in the scoring, but cannot pin-point them so far as to say which match they were in. Like many other Rugby League footballers, he does not keep press cuttings, a fact he will probably regret when his active days in the game are over. He has, however, quite a few photographs to look back upon when that day does come.

As recently as this season he recorded one of the best tries he has yet scored. The game was at Leeds (surprising how Headingley and Odsal keep cropping up) in a Yorkshire challenge cup-tie. His fifty yards run, in which he weaved his way through the Leeds team to score by the posts, was acclaimed by friend and foe alike as a beauty.

Off the field, Russell's chief interest is in helping Pat Devery to maintain the car which provides them with much pleasure during the close season. Having been a motor mechanic he knows all about them. He is also keen on tennis, golf and, during his army days, did quite a lot of cross-country running.

His inseparable Fartown pals are Johnny Hunter and Pat Devery. The three of them spent their 1949 summer holiday touring the south of France in Pat's car. They kept themselves fit, too, and were ready for football immediately on their return. The fact that Pat has re-signed for a further term at Fartown has given Russell great pleasure. He looks upon the Australian as one of the best friends he has ever had, either on or off the field.

This present season of 1949-50 has been an important one in Russell Pepperell's life. He has been granted a testimonial by the Fartown club and he has again played for his country and his country. Also he has entered the realms of matrimony with Miss Barbara Hirst, a Huddersfield girl.

The compilers of this booklet wish him the best of luck in his married life and, in conclusion, express the hope that Rugby League enthusiasts "down-under" will have the opportunity of seeing this sturdy Cumbrian in action next summer.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

gained by

Russell Pepperell

For England

- v. France at Leeds, May 17th, 1947.
- v. Wales at Swansea, December 6th, 1947.
- v. Wales at Wigan, September 15th, 1948.
- v. France at Bordeaux, December 4th, 1949.

Reserve to Travel.

- Third Test v. New Zealand at Odsal Stadium, December 20th, 1947.
- First Test v. Australia at Leeds, October 9th, 1948.
- Second Test v. Australia at Swinton, November 6th, 1948.
- Third Test v. Australia at Odsal Stadium, January 29th, 1949.
- v. Wales at Wigan, February 27th, 1943.
- v. France at Marseilles, April 11th, 1948.
- v. France at Bordeaux, November 28th, 1948.
- v. Wales at Swansea, February 5th, 1949.
- v. France at Wembley, March 12th, 1949.

Empire Team in France

- v. A French Selection at Bordeaux, May 26th, 1949.
- v. A Pyrenees Team at Albi, May 29th, 1949.

England Amateurs

- v. France at Bordeaux, season 1938-39.

For Cumberland

- v. Lancashire at Barrow, January 4th, 1947.
- v. Yorkshire at Leeds, October 22nd, 1947.
- v. Lancashire at Workington, May 15th, 1948.
- v. Australia at Whitehaven, October 13th, 1948.
- v. Lancashire at Salford, April 20th, 1949.
- v. Yorkshire at Hull, September 26th, 1949.
- v. Lancashire at Workington, October 12th, 1949.
- Was chosen v. Yorkshire at Workington on September 26th, 1946, and on April 6th, 1949, but was unable to play on either occasion owing to injury.

War-time Representative Matches

- Northern Command v. Rugby League at Halifax, March 21st, 1942.
- Yorkshire League v. Lancashire League at Dewsbury, March 28th, 1942.
- Northern Command v. Rugby League at Hull, October 10th, 1942.
- Northern Command v. The Yorkshire Cup Winners (Dewsbury) at Crown Flatt, January 2nd, 1943.
- Rugby League v. Rugby Union at Leeds, January 23rd, 1943.

Versatile "Russ"

Some idea of Russell Pepperell's ability and willingness to play wherever the team's requirements has demanded will be gleaned from the following figures. It has not been possible to detail the exact positions (*i.e.*, right wing, left wing, etc.) nor can any check be kept upon positional moves necessitated during the course of a game through injuries to players.

Yet the fact that he can adapt himself to any need in the backs is shown, while his brief excursions among the forwards have left no doubt that he would adequately fill the bill there should he be called upon.

Only matches for Huddersfield are included here.

Season	Full Back	Wing	Centre	Half Back	Loose Forward
1939-40	16	1	1	1	—
1940-41	9	5	3	—	1
1941-42	—	3	10	1	1
1942-43	—	8	16	1	—
1945-46	—	4	6	1	1
1946-47	—	8	11	5	1
1947-48	12	3	5	21	—
1948-49	4	9	1	21	—
1949-50	—	—	—	23	—

(to Dec. 31st)

WHAT THE PRESS HAVE SAID

Random extracts from the press cuttings scrapbook of a Fartown enthusiast :—

Russell Pepperell returned to the full-back position and played as though greedy for work. Refusing to stay out of things he joined in several movements and finished one which started on his own line with a try between the Bramley posts. It was good also to see a full-back who accepts a long kick from the other full-back not as a challenge to a kicking duel, but as an opportunity of getting his three-quarters going.

(Huddersfield v. Bramley, September 14th, 1940).

Huddersfield certainly owed a great deal to Russell Pepperell, who was far more reliable than was his Leeds opposite number. His fielding of the ball was almost faultless, he only knocked on once. His kicking had judgment and, above all, he was always an attacking force. The way he went to a ball at the feet of the Leeds forwards, picked up cleanly and got away to open an attack was first-class football.

(Huddersfield v. Leeds, March 8th, 1941).

Russell Pepperell, displaced from the full-back position by Belshaw, settled down at once as a centre, and with all his old eagerness for work, his good judgment and straight running were very often far more than Bramley could cope with.

(Huddersfield v. Bramley, Rugby League Challenge Cup, Round 2, April 19th, 1941).

The first try came as the result of smart anticipation by Russell Pepperell, who came out on to the wing for the reverse pass from Grahame and beat two Bradford defenders with only a yard of space in which to operate, to ground the ball at the corner.

(Huddersfield v. Bradford Northern, Semi-Final, Yorkshire Challenge Cup, First Leg, November 14th, 1942).

The defence plainly thought they had shut the movement by keeping Russell Pepperell on the touch-line, but the Huddersfield man made more ground up the touch-line in the margin of inches than they had bargained for, and an inside pass to Davies, who had previously handled, did the rest. Batten taking a pass from Russell Pepperell, scored another try.

(Bradford Northern v. Huddersfield, May 1st, 1943).



Stanley Vincent

Albert James

George Russell

The "Pepperell" brothers

England's Test Players 1949

Standing: Gee, Nicholson, McCormick, Horne, Valentine, Ledgard, Pimblett, Lawrenson, Foster, Featherstone, Ward. In front: Helme, Egan, R. Pepperell.

Y. E. News





V. E. NEWS

“Russ”—His latest partnership.

A fine burst up the middle by Pepperell, who turned out as loose forward—not for the first time, by the way—led to a try by Fiddes.

(Huddersfield v. Wakefield T., April 15th, 1946).

Man of the day undoubtedly was Russell Pepperell at centre. Huddersfield have long searched for a centre to take the place of Alec Fiddes and here he is ready-made—as effective and competent a centre three-quarter as may be found by any talent spotter. Russell has played at full-back, wing, centre, fly-half, scrum-half and even loose forward—all in the last twelve months—and he has never let his side down in any position.

(December 21st, 1946).

Only G. R. Pepperell and Cooper showed anything of the form expected of them. Pepperell scored Huddersfield's only try with a really beautiful effort in which he went through half the Warrington side.

(Warrington v. Huddersfield, League Semi-Final, April 24th, 1948).

Cumberland started well and went ahead after ten minutes. Russell Pepperell got the opposition racing across to the wing and then doubled inside brilliantly, beating man after man before scoring near the posts.

(Cumberland v. Lancashire at Workington, May 15th, 1948).

The polished Russell Pepperell was in masterly form at stand-off half. He was the man of the match. His tackles on R. Williams, masterpieces of timing, reduced the Leeds attack to shreds, and his counter-punching, so to speak, was as deadly quick and strong.

(Leeds v. Huddersfield, 3rd Rd. R.L.C.C., March 21st, 1949).

“Why have they left out Russell Pepperell?” This is the question that has been fired at me from all sides since the England team to meet Other Nationalities was announced. I confess Pepperell's exclusion is a mystery for his play throughout last season and in the early weeks of this has been unsurpassed by anyone. Just as if to prove the selectors at fault, Pepperell had another glorious game at stand-off half against Leeds last Monday.

(September 17th, 1949).

Personal tributes to "Russ"

It gave me great pleasure when the editor asked me to write a few lines about Russell Pepperell; firstly because I have great respect and admiration for his skill at rugby, and secondly because he has always fulfilled my ideal as to the manner and spirit in which rugby should be played.

As a rugby player Russell has been under the handicap of being very good in many positions, with the result that until recently he has not played regularly in any one place. In fact he has always played so well at full back, or wing, or centre, or stand-off half, that it was a puzzle as to which was his best position. Now that he has settled down at stand-off half, there can be no doubt, and international honours have deservedly come to him. Although he is very elusive, he has the principal attribute of all great stand-off halves, in that he always plays to, and for, his three-quarters.

A most delightfully clean and alert player, he compensates to some extent for having sometimes to play against, or watch, the "bashers" who put their blot on the good game of rugby. I have never known Russell to intentionally break the rules of the game in order to gain advantage over his opponent; he always plays strictly to the rules and always conducts himself as the gentleman he is, on and off the field. I end by wishing him the best of luck and a trip to Australia as a result of his endeavours.

W. T. H. DAVIES (Bradford Northern R.L.F.C.)

It gives me great pleasure to be afforded the opportunity of writing a few lines in appreciation of Russell Pepperell's service to the Fartown club.

During the short period I have been associated with him both on and off the field of play I have found no better sportsman. The club has always been his first consideration, and irrespective of what position he has been asked to fill his enthusiasm has always been the same. He has attained every possible honour in Rugby League football except the British touring team, and it is the sincere wish of myself and his fellow players that this honour will be fulfilled this year.

On behalf of myself and players, I wish Russell every success and happiness in the future; may he still have a long association with Rugby and here's hoping for a record testimonial.

PAT DEVERY.

It was with very great pleasure that I read, some time ago, of the Huddersfield club's decision to grant Russell Pepperell a testimonial match this season, and it is with equal pleasure that I subscribe a few words towards the booklet which is being prepared to commemorate the occasion.

"Russ" has been "the ever-present" in the Huddersfield teams that have opposed Leeds during the last few seasons, and consequently I have watched him playing many times, and in many capacities. The fact that he has represented his country at wing, centre-three-quarter and stand-off half, and his county at full-back, speaks for itself; I need say no more of his outstanding ability as a player.

Off the field he is quiet, modest and unassuming, and his pleasing personality, combined with his versatility on the field, must surely make him the ideal club man. By giving him the "plum" of the season for his testimonial match the Huddersfield committee have shown that they fully recognise this fact.

May I, then, wish "Russ" the very best of luck for March 4th. Firstly, a bumper gate for his testimonial match, and, secondly, a place in the team to tour Australia this summer. He well deserves both these things!

DICK WILLIAMS (Leeds R.L.F.C.).

Watching a young scrum half playing for Seaton against Bradford Northern in 1939, I knew the club was on to something big. Not because the name was Pepperell but simply that this boy was the man of the match. I am glad that Russell became a Fartowner, for it was a great day for Huddersfield.

"Russ" to me is the model footballer. Non-smoker, teetotaler and clean spoken. A gentleman on and off the field. What an asset to a club. A player who can play and will play in any position on the field. He prefers the stand-off position best, I know—the one I feel certain he will be selected in to tour Australia. To the selectors I say this, you are not choosing a stand-off in Russell, you are selecting a whole back division.

In my present position of trainer-coach I depend to a certain degree in co-operation from the players. To this a lead must be given by the older, experienced members. And to "Russ" as the senior player a great deal of credit

is due in making our team, Fartown, if not always the best, the happiest team in the Rugby League.

There are many more years of good football left in Russell, due to good living and supreme fitness.

Wishing him a bumper testimonial.

ALEX FIDDES.

I take great pleasure in placing on record my appreciation of Russell Pepperell on the occasion of his testimonial match. The honours he has already received bear testimony to his skill, and I have always found him a great sportsman, both on and off the field, and a worthy opponent.

I look forward to playing against Russell at the Huddersfield versus Wigan fixture, and know that he will give a display of the highest standard. Huddersfield are indeed fortunate to have a player of such calibre. Good luck, "Pep" from all of us at Central Park.

CECIL MOUNTFORD (*Wigan R.L.F.C.*).

I am very fortunate to have this opportunity of writing a few lines in appreciation of a fellow Cumbrian.

I have known Russell about eight years now, and hope it is my personal privilege to know him many more years. It was he who, on my own first visit to Huddersfield, put me at ease and gave me some very good advice. Russell Pepperell's name—together with his two brothers Stanley and Albert—is legendary in Cumberland. Long may he continue to play under the famous colours the "claret and gold" and I wish him every success in this his testimonial season.

JEFF. BAWDEN.

Pepperell is an honoured name in Cumberland R.L. history and Russell of that ilk will always be remembered with affection wherever Cumbrian enthusiasts foregather.

As the present Cumberland county captain, he has followed a long list of distinguished names, including his brother Stanley, Jim Brough, Martin Hodgson, "Fergy" Southward, Douglas Clark, Joe Ferguson, Tom Fletcher and Jim Lomas.

In the old days, long before Cumberland had two professional clubs, the county was financed primarily by its one or two home county games played each season. If

wretched weather was struck and the gate receipts were small the county officials had to inspect carefully almost every halfpenny expended.

In those days it was nothing unusual for generous Cumberland players to refrain from claiming expenses on the ground that a week-end on their native soil was sufficient recompense.

During his captaincy, Russell has not been called upon to play for a county struggling for survival, but if the need ever did arise he would be among the first to offer to play for nothing—for loyalty and enthusiasm down through the ages have kept the R.L. flag flying bravely in a distant outpost.

On the occasion of his richly merited testimonial, Cumbrians salute a loyal servant and a great player!

G. G. CARTER, "*Whitehaven News.*"

We in Cumberland have been exceedingly proud to have had the three famous Pepperell brothers born in that little village of Seaton. We have already paid tribute to Stan, when he received his testimonial against Dewsbury on Saturday, November 8th, 1947.

I am sure no one could but feel pleasure in paying tribute to such a great-hearted player as Russell Pepperell. I have seen him play schoolboy football, play amateur rugby football for his village club and help them to win every honour possible, also play for his county in three different positions in the back division, and prove a success in any one of them. He captained the team when they beat both Yorkshire and Lancashire, by brilliant football, in the season 1948-49. I have seen him play for his country, and he is admitted to be the best all-round player in the game to-day.

When we were selecting the England amateur international team to play France at Bordeaux before the war, I nominated him for the stand-off half position. John Wilson, who was secretary of the Rugby League in those days, later remarked, "This boy is in a class by himself on the form he displayed against Bradford Northern when playing for his village club in the Rugby League cup-tie at Odsal."

To-day we in Cumberland still think the same of him. I well remember when he agreed to sign for Huddersfield on the same terms as his brother Stanley received. Without

a doubt he has proved to be one of the greatest captures the Huddersfield club ever made.

We in Cumberland are all proud of George Russell Pepperell, and we sincerely hope he has a "bumper" testimonial, and wish him every success.

His sincere friend,

GEORGE PLUMMER

(Hon. Sec., Cumberland County Rugby League).

RUSSELL PEPPERELL'S FARTOWN PLAYING RECORDS

Up to December 31st, 1949.

FIRST TEAM

SEASON	APP.	GOALS.	TRIES.	POINTS.
1939-40	.. 19	—	4	12
1940-41	.. 18	1	6	20
1941-42	.. 15	—	6	18
1942-43	.. 25	—	17	51
1945-46	.. 12	—	5	15
1946-47	.. 25	—	9	27
1947-48	.. 41	—	10	30
1948-49	.. 35	—	14	42
1949-50	.. 23	—	7	21
	213	1	78	236

SECOND TEAM.

SEASON	APP.
1938-39	.. 1
1939-40	.. 2

In representative matches Russell has scored three tries and kicked one goal. He also scored a try while playing as a war-time "guest" for Bradford Northern v. Leeds in January, 1943.

SEVEN-A-SIDE FOOTBALL.

Three competitions (6 games); 5 tries; 15 points. (Huddersfield were winning finalists on all three occasions).

GEORGE RUSSELL PEPPERELL

Was born at Seaton on April 23rd, 1918.

First played at Fartown against York Reserves on December 3rd, 1938.

Made his first team debut against Bradford Northern at Odsal Stadium on September 23rd, 1939.

Scored his first try for Fartown against Keighley on September 30th, 1939.

Headed the Fartown try list during season 1942-43.

Has captained England Amateurs, Cumberland and Huddersfield.

Has scored three or more tries in a match on seven occasions.

Made his 200th appearance for Huddersfield on September 24th this season against Widnes at Fartown.

Only missed four of Huddersfield's first team matches during season 1947-48, and three of these were due to representative calls.

Is 5 feet 7 inches in height and weighs 11 stones.

Was married to Miss Barbara Hirst of Huddersfield on December 28th, 1949.

"The Pepperells" in retrospect

1934. October 27th—Stanley joined Huddersfield.

1936. November 7th—Stanley's first international v. Wales.

1937. October 30th—Stanley's first Yorkshire Cup final, on the losing side against Leeds at Wakefield.

1938. October 22nd—Stanley won a Yorkshire Cup medal when Hull were beaten in the Final at Odsal.

December 3rd—Stanley kicked his 100th goal for Huddersfield at St. Helens. On the same day Russell played a trial game. Was signed.

1939. September 23rd—Russell's first team debut v. Bradford Northern at Odsal.

1940. May—Stanley completed a run of seventy consecutive first team appearances.

1942. August 29th—Albert's first team debut for Huddersfield against Halifax at Fartown. Stanley and Russell also played.

November 28th and December 5th—Huddersfield v. Dewsbury in the Yorkshire Cup final. Russell played in the first leg only, Stanley in the second leg only.

1943. January 23rd—Russell played in the first League v. Union representative match at Leeds.
February 27th—International recognition for Russell. Chosen as reserve to travel for England v. Wales at Wigan.
October 23rd—Albert signed for Huddersfield.
1945. April 28th and May 5th—Albert played in the R.L. Challenge Cup Final in which Huddersfield beat Bradford Northern both at Fartown and Odsal.
1946. January 30th—Albert transferred to Workington Town.
March 23rd—Russell's reappearance in the Fartown team (at Castleford) after service abroad.
Sept 26th—Cumberland v. Yorkshire. All three "Peps" chosen but, owing to injury, only Albert played.
1947. January 4th—Stanley, Russell and Albert all represent Cumberland against Lancashire at Barrow.
May 17th—Russell played in his first international England v. France at Headingley.
August 23rd—Stanley injured his left ankle in a reserve game at Headingley.
November 8th—Stanley's testimonial match.
December 20th—Test recognition for Russell. Chosen as reserve to travel for the third test against the Kiwis.
1948. Further international, county and test reserve honours for Russell.
1949. May 14th—Russell played in league championship final against Warrington at Maine Road.
September 12th—Stanley's 100th first team try for Huddersfield, scored against Leeds at Headingley.
September 24th—Russell's 200th appearance for Huddersfield.
October 22nd—Stanley's 300th appearance for Huddersfield.
November 19th—Stanley injured his right ankle in a reserve game at Wakefield.
1950. March 4th—Russell's testimonial match.

"Huddersfield —I thank you!"

A personal message from "Russ" Pepperell

In July 1939, I arrived in Huddersfield. I came to fulfil a promise to the Huddersfield Cricket and Athletic Club. It was an obligation that I have never regretted—not even for one single moment. The years that I have lived amongst the people of Huddersfield have been happy ones. You have made me welcome socially and on the football field. For your good wishes and kindnesses I am eternally grateful.

Fartown is certainly my ideal football club and I am proud to be a wearer of the "claret and gold." Every moment of my connection with Huddersfield I have thoroughly enjoyed and it has provided me with a vast collection of pleasant memories and reminiscences for my later years.

March 4th will be a memorable day in my career. It is the day set aside by the Fartown officials for my testimonial match and with Wigan in opposition it will be a proud and unforgettable day.

Possibly my greatest debt is to my team mates; to them I owe so much. The honours that I have gained have been mainly due to their skill and co-operation. They are good players and good pals and if the future is kind to me I hope to be associated with them for some years to come.

In conclusion I would like to thank the officials for the honour they have bestowed on me, the supporter's club for publishing this booklet to assist the testimonial fund, the players and staff for happy times and good football and the supporters and public of Huddersfield for their welcome, encouragement and support during the years that I have lived amongst them. Thank you all.

Yours faithfully,

