

Pte LIONEL CALLUM BURGESS

BRITISH WAR MEDAL & VICTORY MEDAL

1ST BRIGADE, EAST RIDING YEOMANRY
Reg. No. 50413

Introduction

A brass plaque in St Andrew's Church, Great Fencote commemorating a young airman provided the idea for this booklet. Each of the names on our War Memorial commemorates someone who was a beloved relative or friend but about whom we may know little. Within the limitations of surviving records, census returns and other documents I have attempted to gather some information on each of the 14 men who died.

My thanks go to the relatives of Alexander John Fife, Richard Henry Edmund Hutton-Squire, Charles Marshall and William Pybus who have been able to help.

S. Minto
November 2015

Lionel was born in 1894, the 4th son of Thomas and Rosalind Burgess of Mill House, Kirkby Fleetham where Thomas was the miller. In 1911 he was attending boarding school at Yealand Conyers in Lancashire. His parents later moved from Kirkby Fleetham to Eastfield House, Pickering.

Lionel enlisted in Hull as a private in the 1st Brigade, East Riding Yeomanry. In October 1915, the Brigade left Southampton for Salonika but en route was diverted to Cairo where it arrived on November 19th. It remained in the Egypt / Palestine Theatre of War until 1918.

It is likely that Lionel was wounded during the 3rd Battle of Gaza which took place between October 24th and November 7th 1917. He died of wounds in 24 Station Hospital Egypt on Nov. 21st 1917 aged 23 and is buried in Kantara War Memorial Cemetery.

L. Cpl ARTHUR CARR

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



Arthur was born 1881 in Morton-on-Swale, the son of George and Isabella Sarah Carr. In 1881 his father was a potato merchant at Morton-on-Swale and, then, a farmer at Red House, Kirkby Fleetham. He later moved to Greengate Farm, Kirkby Fleetham where Arthur worked with him before leaving the village. By 1911 Arthur had moved south and was an 'Attendant on the Insane' at the London County Asylum. He lived with his wife, Elizabeth, and their 2 children at 12, Gloucester Rd; West Hill, Dartford, Kent.

He enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps and attained the rank of Lance-Corporal but no records of Arthur's war service appear to have survived. However, he is remembered in the London County Council Memorial Book for War Service as one of their employees at Bexley Mental Hospital.

A complex system processed injured or sick soldiers from the front line back to hospitals at home. It included stretcher bearers, field ambulances, casualty clearing stations,



The Memorial Cemetery is situated at Kantara East on the eastern side of the Suez Canal, 160 kilometres north-east of Cairo and 50 kilometres south of Port Said. Early in the First War, Kantara was an important point in the defence of Suez against Turkish attacks and developed into a major base and hospital centre.

ambulance trains and barges and base hospitals located near the army's principal bases at Boulogne, Le Havre, Rouen, Le Touquet and Etaples. At home, existing military hospitals were expanded, many civilian hospitals were turned over in full or part to military use and private hospitals were used, too. At Catterick and Ripon Camps, hospitals were established to hold 750 and 650 beds respectively. Auxiliary units opened in large houses and public buildings.

The RAMC performed their duties unarmed and in the midst of battle, losing almost 7,000 killed in action or died of wounds. It is possible that Arthur was wounded and then returned to England where he died in September 1919 aged 38. He is buried in Dartford, Kent.

Lt. Col. ALEXANDER JOHN FIFE

YORKSHIRE REGIMENT ATTACHED TO THE MACHINE GUN CORPS

BRITISH WAR MEDAL & VICTORY MEDAL



Alexander was born in 1880 in Sherborne, Dorset, the elder son of Major William Henry Fife-Cookson, (9th Lancers) and his wife, Janet, daughter of Admiral Boyle of Lee Hall, Northumberland.

He attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and joined the army in 1899, serving for 11 years in the King's Royal Rifles. In 1901, he saw active service in the Mounted Infantry in South Africa where he was severely wounded in the head in fighting at Skeerpoort. Subsequently he became Aide-de-Camp to Sir Reginald Talbot, Governor General of Australia and later to Lord Grey when the latter was Governor General of Canada. On the death of his father, Alexander retired from the army with the rank of Captain to run the Langton and other family estates.

At the outbreak of the First War, he volunteered for service and was assigned to the Local Territorials – the 4th Yorkshire Regiment - as Major. He was appointed Commanding Officer

of D Company and spent some time recruiting soldiers in the locality. On Tuesday, April 6th 1915 D Company carried out a recruitment march from their Headquarters in Northallerton through Wensleydale to Hawes, returning to Northallerton on 10th April. (A more detailed account can be found in *Wensleydale Remembered* by Keith Taylor) In May he was placed in temporary command of the 2/5 Durham Light Infantry.

In 1915, Alexander married Mary Aileen, the eldest daughter of Mr E.H. Courage, of Kirkby Fleetham Hall and they had two sons, the younger dying only 3 weeks after his father.

On May 29th 1916 he was given command of a Group Machine Gun Training Centre at Grantham, with the temporary rank of Lt Colonel, then in September he was appointed a Battalion Commander in the Machine Gun Corps.

Alexander was posted to France in November 1916 and commanded the Machine Gun Base Depot at Camiers. The Base Depots were used as main stores; for organisation of men and units going to and from the units in the field; and for administration. In early 1917 he contracted pneumonia and was moved to a base hospital on the channel coast where he died, suddenly, of heart failure on February 7th 1917 at the age of 37.

The following are extracts from letters of brother-officers: -

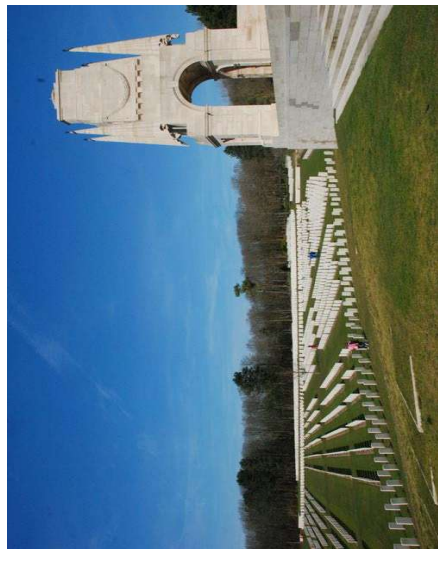
"You can have no idea how fond we all were of him in the 2/5 Durham's, and how greatly we missed him when he left us to join the M.G. Corps. I can say that without exception he was the finest man I

have ever met, and I feel that I have lost, not only my Commanding Officer, but a great friend."

"He gave inspiration to us all, both men and Officers."

Alexander is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery. Etaples lies 27 kilometres south of Boulogne and the Military Cemetery is to the north of the town, on the west side of the road to Boulogne.

During the First World War, there were enormous concentrations of Commonwealth support camps and hospitals in the area around Etaples. It was remote from attack, other than by aircraft, and could be reached by railway from both the northern and southern battlefields. In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals. There were eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot which meant that 22,000 wounded or sick could be treated.



Pte JOHN HUBERT HOLLOX

BRITISH WAR MEDAL, VICTORY MEDAL

15TH BATTALION ROYAL SCOTS (LOTHIAN REGIMENT)

Reg. No. 41472

John was born in Sandhutton in 1896, the son of Joseph and Harriet Hollox, His father was a farmer and by 1911, the family had moved to Kikrby Fleetham, possibly to Hill Crest Farm, Low Street. John was a traveller for a grocer and Provision Merchant.

He enlisted at Bedale on December 7th 1915 and was originally assigned to the Yorkshire Regiment. In August 1916, John was released for 4 weeks' 'working furlough' with his father at Kirkby Fleetham. He was later transferred to the 15th Bat. Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) and posted to France.

John disembarked at Boulogne on June 20th 1917 and was assigned to the Etaples Depot on June 21st, joining his regiment in the field on July 6th. On September 17th he was transferred to the Royal Scots Regiment and joined his unit in the field on the 21st. On March 22nd 1918 John was killed in action, aged 21, and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial at Fauberg-D'Amiens Cemetery.

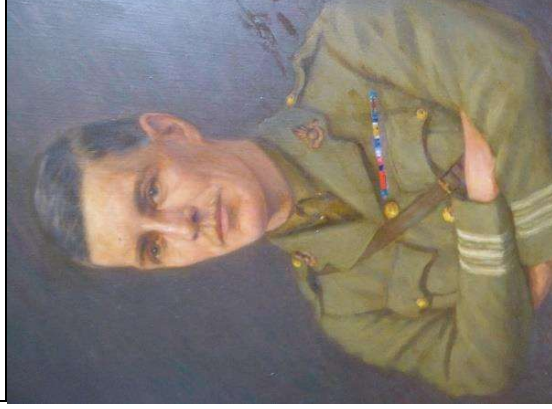


The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave.

MAJOR ROBERT HENRY EDMUND HUTTON-SQUIRE DSO

1914 STAR, BRITISH WAR MEDAL & VICTORY MEDAL

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY
85TH BATTERY, 11TH BRIGADE



Robert was born in October 1877, the son of Catherine Louisa Lucy and Lt Col. Robert Hutton-Squire of Holtby Hall, Hornby.

After attending Charterhouse School and the Royal Indian College, he began work as a civil engineer in Madras. Then, in May 1900, he was commissioned

2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery and served in India and Burma for several years, being attached to the British Mountain Battery and taking part in the Expedition to Kilat in 1908.

In 1911 he was stationed at Shoeburyness in Essex with his regiment and was promoted to Captain in 1912. He married Violet Isobel Hamilton Warrack in July 1914 and they had one

son who was born in September 1917, 5 months after his father died.

Robert served in France and Belgium with the Royal Garrison Artillery as part of the British Expeditionary Force from September 1914. In April 1915 he was given command of the 85th Battery 11th Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery and from then on was involved in most major engagements, being continually in action and mainly with Australian and Canadian forces in the area around Ypres. In December 1915 he was promoted to Major and in the following year fought for 10 weeks in the Battle of the Somme.

In January 1917, he was mentioned in Despatches in the London gazette by the then General Sir Douglas Haig for 'gallant and distinguished service in the field', subsequently being awarded the Distinguished Service Order in February.

On April 7th 1917, a very heavy and concentrated bombardment was launched near Arras against the Germans taking supplies on to the Vimy Ridge. The Battalion's War Diary records that at about 8.15pm, the 85th officers' hut received a direct hit from a shell, instantly killing one officer and mortally wounding two others, one of which was Robert. He died the following day in Barlin Hospital, aged 39. His Colonel wrote of him: *'He was beloved by all: he was such a good friend and absolutely indifferent to danger; nothing upset his nerve. He had wonderful patience and power of observationHe was my right hand and mainstay: we all mourn him as a real warm-hearted friend and gallant soldier.'*

Robert is buried in Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, which was used for burials by the 6th Casualty Clearing Station at Bruay.



Barlin is a village about 11 kilometres south-west of Bethune on the D188, between the Bethune-Arras and Bethune-St. Pol roads, about 6.5 kilometres south-east of Bruay.

Bdr CHARLES MARSHALL MM

BRITISH WAR MEDAL, VICTORY MEDAL

**34TH X TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY, ROYAL GARRISON
ARTILLERY
Reg. No. 67021**



and working at Mr William Bowe's farm at Crakehall, near Bedale.

He enlisted at Richmond in the Royal Garrison Artillery on November 6th 1915 and was posted overseas with the 38th Company on January 16th 1916 to join the British Expeditionary Force. Charles was then attached to the 34th X Trench Mortar Battery. He was twice reported wounded - in April 1916 and in early 1917, rejoining his unit on April 5th. In February 1917, he was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field and on September 5th, he was promoted to Bombardier.

On November 18th 1917 Charles received a gunshot wound to the right thigh and was taken to the 12th General Hospital at Rouen. In the First War, Rouen was a major logistics centre with many commonwealth camps and base hospitals situated on the south side of the city. No. 12 general hospital was established by the British on the champ de courses.

The severity of his injury resulted in Charles being transferred on November 20th to the 1st Southern General Hospital at Edgbaston, Birmingham (below) which was based on the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham and catered for 130 officers and 2,357 other ranks.

Charles was born at Kirkby Fleetham in 1895, the 3rd son of Charles and Jane Marshall. In 1911 he was a wagoner, living



Charles died there, from a secondary haemorrhage, on December 26th 1917 aged 22 and is buried at St. Andrew's Church, Great Fencote.



Pte ROBERT PENNOCK

1914 – 15 STAR, BRITISH WAR MEDAL, VICTORY MEDAL

2ND BATTALION YORKSHIRE REGIMENT YORKSHIRE
HUSSARS

(ALEXANDRA, PRINCESS OF WALES' OWN)

Reg. No. 3 / 9484

The son of Thomas and Hannah Pennock, Robert was born at Catterick in 1873, the eldest of 7 children. His family later moved to Kirkby Fleetham, but by 1911 both his parents had died and Robert lived at Catterick with his aunt and uncle. He worked as a bricklayer.

After enlisting at Richmond in the 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own), he was posted abroad and disembarked in France on April 22nd 1915, possibly at Le Havre. The regimental war diary reports that '*a draft of 166 Rank and File arrived from Base*' on April 27th and it is probable that Robert was one of them. The following day the brigade was placed in reserve to those fighting at Ypres. The brigade saw much action around Le Touret and then, on June 15th moved into position near to Givenchy in preparation for an assault on German lines. They suffered a great deal of shelling and casualties were very heavy. Robert was one of those killed in action on June 15th 1915. He was 41 years old.

Robert is commemorated on Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais. This memorial commemorates over 13, 400 British

soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in late September 1915, and who have no known grave.



Air Mechanic 3RD Class WILLIAM PYBUS

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Reg. No.123554

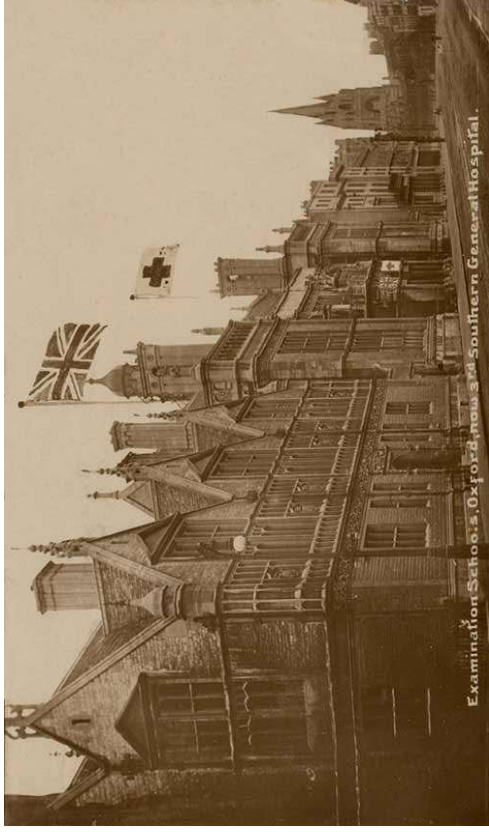
William was the son of Henry and Elizabeth Pybus, of Hook House Farm, Kirkby Fleetham where he was born in September 1879. He worked on the farm with his father and brothers but by 1911 his father had died and William was farming at Picton Old Farm, Kirk Leavington, living with his widowed mother and sister, Dora.

Unfortunately, William's enlistment details have not survived, nor has most of his service record, but at the time of his death he was an air mechanic with the Royal Air Force, stationed at No 3 Stores Depot, Milton in Oxfordshire. This was the 3rd depot to be set up to supply equipment to what was then the Royal Flying Corps. It opened in April 1916 to service the needs of local flying training stations at Upper Heyford, Bicester, Witney, Weston-on-the Green and Oxford.

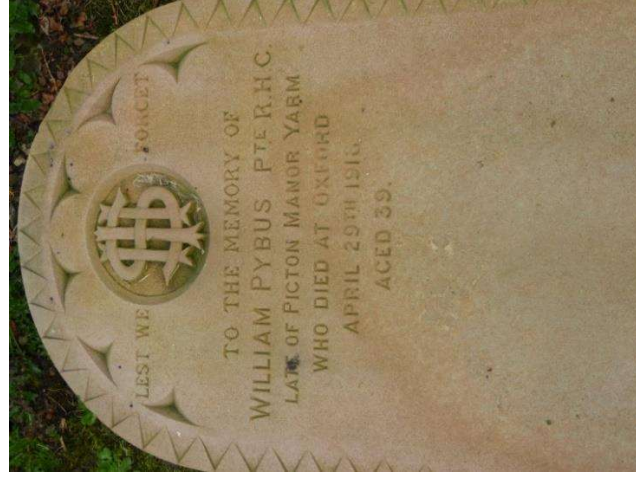
William died at the 3rd Southern General Hospital, Oxford on April 29th 1918 aged 38 and is buried at St. Andrew's Church, Great Fencote. His will gives his address as Lowfields, Kirkby Fleetham, so he may have returned to the area prior to enlisting. Probate was granted at York to his brother, Frank Whitelock Pybus (chemist) and his sister Dora.

William Pybus' Memorial Plaque

After the First World War, a Memorial Plaque was issued to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. They came with a commemorative scroll from King George V. Around the edge the legend reads (in capitals) "He died for freedom and honour"



The 3rd Southern General Hospital in Oxford which had beds for 336 officers and 1210 other ranks.



Pte CHARLES SADLER

BRITISH WAR MEDAL & VICTORY MEDAL

**23RD (TYNESIDE SCOTTISH) BATTALION
NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS
AREA EMPLOYMENT LABOUR CORPS**

Reg. No. 407900

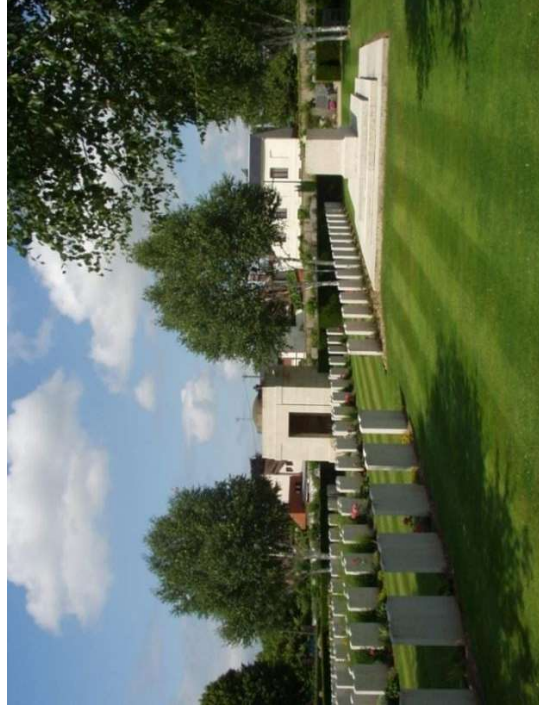


Charles was born in Kirkby Fleetham in 1877, the son of John and Elizabeth Sadler. He moved from the village and, in 1901, was working as a ploughman on a farm at Tudhoe Village in Co. Durham. By 1911 he was living at 3 Commercial St, Cornsray Colliery and worked as a Labourer Platelayer for the local coal company. He was married to Eva and they had a son, John, aged 2.

He enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers and was posted overseas to France. He was originally in the 23rd (Tyneside Scottish) Battalion but later transferred to the 703rd Area Employment Co. Labour Corps. The Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service. Many were men who had returned to duty having been wounded. Labour

Corps units were often deployed for work within range of the enemy guns, sometimes for lengthy periods.

Charles died of wounds on May 24th 1918 aged 41 in the No.8 General Hospital in Rouen and is buried at Bois-Guillaume Communal Cemetery Extension.



The extension adjoins Bois-Guillaume Communal Cemetery. It was begun in March 1917 and most of the burials came from No.8 General Hospital, which was quartered at Bois-Guillaume in a large country house and grounds. Bois-Guillaume is a north-eastern suburb of Rouen, on the main road to Neufchatel.

Pte HENRY STIRK

1914-15 STAR, BRITISH WAR MEDAL & VICTORY MEDAL

5TH BATTALION, DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S (WEST RIDING) REGIMENT

Reg. No. 1916, LATER 235645

Henry was born in 1895 in Kirkby Fleetham, the eldest of Thomas W. and Jane Stirk's family. In 1911 he was working at Harlsey as a horseman and was known as Harry.

Harry enlisted as a private in the 5th Battalion, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment and was posted overseas, disembarking in France on April 19th 1915. Although his army service record has not survived and we can't be certain where Harry actually fought, his regiment was involved in some of the major battles of the war – Somme, Arras, Cambrai and Lys.

Harry died of wounds on August. 27th 1918 aged 23 and is buried in the South Cemetery, Gomiécourt, Pas de Calais. Gomiécourt lies 16 kilometres south of Arras and 6 kilometres north-west of Bapaume. The village was captured by the 3rd Division on April 23rd and the cemetery made at the end of August.



Pte ROBINSON TWEEDY

1914-15 STAR, BRITISH WAR MEDAL, VICTORY MEDAL

4TH RESERVE BATTALION YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

REG. NO. 3412

**YORKSHIRE HUSSARS (ALEXANDRA, PRINCESS OF
WALES' OWN)**

REG. NO. 200948

The eldest son of Charles R & Alice Tweedy, Robinson was born in Kirkby Fleetham in 1892. By the time he enlisted in the 4th Reserve Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment at Northallerton on January 12th 1915, he was employed at The Kennels, Bedale.

He was posted to France in September 1915 with the British Expeditionary Force and his battalion saw action in the area around Armentieres and the Ypres Salient.

On February 28th 1916, during the Battle of Ypres, he received a gunshot wound to the abdomen, the bullet lodging near to his heart. Robinson was returned to England on April 21st but there is no record as to which hospital.

His wound being so serious, he was discharged from the army on February 23rd 1917, by the Invaliding Board at Catterick, with an army pension of 12/6 per week, later increasing to 13/9. It was noted that he was '*very weak*'. On discharge, his

commanding officer wrote '*This man has borne a good character during the time he has been under my command*'.

Robinson died on December 14th 1918 aged 26 and is buried at St. Andrew's Church, Great Fencote.



L. CPL. ARTHUR WARD

BRITISH WAR MEDAL & VICTORY MEDAL

6TH BATTALION YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

Reg. No. 10752

The son of Thomas and Frances Ward, of Thrintoft, Northallerton, Arthur was born in Ainderby Steeple, in 1882. In 1891, his father was a potato and fruit merchant and the family lived at Ainderby. By 1901, Arthur had moved away and was a boarder at his sister Annie and brother-in-law Edward Pearson's in Grove Hill, Middlesbrough where he was working as a tram conductor. He later lived in South Bank, Middlesbrough.

Arthur enlisted at Richmond in the 6th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment Yorkshire Hussars (Prince of Wales' Own). The Regiment's War Diary records that the 6th Battalion sailed from Liverpool on July 3rd 1915 in HMT Aquitania as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. On August 6th they disembarked south east of Nibrunesi Point and went into action at 11.00pm at Lala Baba, driving the enemy out to Hill 10. In this action (Gallipoli), the casualties were 16 officers and 250 other ranks, one of which was L Cpl Arthur Ward who was killed on August 7th 1915 aged 33.

Arthur is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Turkey which stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It takes the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles.



Flight Cadet HECTOR CAMPBELL WRIGHT

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Reg. No: 100413



Hector Campbell Wright was born in New York City on October 28th 1899 the only son of Arthur Fordyce Wright, a merchant, and Alice Fordyce (nee Campbell) Wright of 59 Morningside Avenue, New York City and later of 23 Portman Street, Portman Square in London.

His father died in 1900 and his mother, Alice Gertrude Wright returned to stay with her parents in Fladbury, Worcestershire where her father was the Church of England Vicar. Hector became a British Citizen in 1900. In 1911, Hector and Alice were living at The Grange, Brome in Suffolk where Alice's brother was a 'gentleman farmer'.

Hector was educated at Lancing College and served as a Private in the Officer Training Corps. He went on to study engineering at the City and Guilds Technical College at Finsbury Park where he was a member of the London University Officer Training Corps in the Engineering Section.

On the October 20th 1917 he applied for a commission in the army expressing a preference for either the Machine Gun Corps or the Royal Flying Corps and was sent for basic training at No.1 Officer Cadet Wing at Farnborough. Following a disciplinary incident in which he was, briefly, transferred to infantry ranks, Hector was allowed to resume his training and on the 3rd of May 1918 he was posted to the School of Aeronautics. On June 21st 1918 he was posted to Uxbridge and then to 46 Training Depot Station at South Carlton in Lincolnshire on his appointment as a Flight Cadet.

Hector was killed in a flying accident on Sept. 25th 1918 when his Sopwith Camel (registration E7154) spun into the ground while on a training flight from South Carlton aerodrome. He was 19 years old and is buried at St. Andrew's Church, Great Fencote, his connection to this area being his mother's sister – Annie Madeline Plews – who was married to Walter Edward Plews (Brewer) and lived at Fleetham Lodge.



Act. L. Cpl. FREDERICK WILLIAM YOUNG

BRITISH WAR MEDAL & VICTORY MEDAL

**8TH BATT. SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY
(FORMERLY 20132: HUSSARS)**

Reg. No. 15349

Frederick (known as Fred) was born on July 6th 1893 at Kirkby Fleetham, the son of John and Annie Young. He and his family lived at Lowstreet in 1901. In 1911, Fred was employed by Mr Sydney Smith as a wagoner at Storra Pasture Farm, Langthorne, near Bedale.

He enlisted at Scarborough in autumn 1914 and was promoted Acting L Cpl in the 8th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. The Battalion saw action at the Battles of Loos, the Somme and Arras.

On April 22nd 1917 the 8th Battalion Somerset regiment were resting in trenches at Laurel Cam Effie when they came under heavy gas shell bombardment from midnight until 4.0am on the 23rd. Later that day they came under direct rifle and machine gun fire in front of Hyderabad Works and Fred was killed in action, aged 23.

He is buried at Chili Trench Cemetery at Gavrelle, a village about 10 kilometres east-north-east of Arras on the road to Douai. Gavrelle was captured by the Royal Naval Division on April 23rd 1917, lost on March 28th 1918, and reoccupied by the 51st (Highland) Division on August 27th.



Chili Trench Cemetery was made in April and May 1917, mainly by units of the 37th Division; it was also known also as Gavrelle Road Cemetery, or Fampoux Cemetery.