Frederick Hem(m)ingway



Rank: - Farrier Sergeant

Number: - 47192

Regiment: - Machine Gun Corps (Cavalry) (Formerly 29254, 4th Reserve Cavalry) Cavalry

Died in Great Britain of Pulmonary Tuberculosis: - 25th December 1920

Cemetery: - Dewsbury, Yorkshire F. "C." 484.

Batley News, 1 Jan 1921

Family Details

Frederick was born in Dewsbury on the 4th December 1882 the son of James and Rachael Hemingway nee Robinson who had married on the 18th January 1874 at Dewsbury Parish Church. He was baptised at the same church on the 25th March 1883 when his father gave his occupation as a labourer living at West Town, Dewsbury.

Sadly, his father died on the 9th February 1891 and when the census was taken that year he was living with his mother and siblings Samuel 1866, Abraham 1870, who were his father's children, Arthur 1875, James 1877 and Annie 1878 at 27, Manor Road, Dewsbury. Before 1901 the family had moved to live at 2, Oastler Street, Dewsbury and Frederick was working as a coal miner hewer. His mother had adopted two sons Job 1892 and James 1894.

On the 3rd June 1911 when he was living at 3, Grafton Street, Batley he married Lilian Drye at Christ Church, Staincliffe, Batley. Annie was born in 1913.

According to his Pension and Ledgers and Index Card the family was living at 21, High Street, Batley Carr in 1920.

Service Details

His records have not survived and it is hard to ascertain exactly where he fought.

It seems he was first in the Reserve Cavalry Regiment and was later moved/attached to the MGC (Cavalry). That often happened if the soldier passed an MG firing test. The MGC's were known as the "Suicide Squads" and were also first target for the enemy.

The 9th Cavalry Brigade Machine Gun Squadron was formed on 28 February 1916. He may have embarked in early 1916 and joined the 9th MGC on its formation in February 1916. He didn't serve overseas before 1st Jan 1916 and he wasn't discharged until January 1919 so he could have fought in the following:

1916
The Battle of Flers-Courcelette (a phase of the Battles of the Somme 1916) (15-22nd September 1916).

1917
The First Battle of the Scarpe (9 – 12 April, a phase of the Arras Offensive)
The Tank Attack (20 – 21 November, a phase of the Cambrai Operations)
The capture of Bourlon Wood (24 – 26 November, a phase of the Cambrai Operations).
The German counterattacks (30 November – 3 December, a phase of the Cambrai Operations).

1918
The Battle of St Quentin (21 -23 March, a phase of the of the First Battles of the Somme in which the Division was engaged until 1 April).

Service Medal & Award Rolls records mentioned above stated that he was discharged as physically unfit for army service on 13 January 1919. Interestingly the Regimental War Diary for the 9th MGC Squadron for that day, 13 January 1919, records the unit at Kastor 40 km. South west of Dusseldorf, Germany. The War Diary states "In Billets. 1 O.R. *(other rank)* struck off strength"

Coincidence? Or could this have been Fred Hemmingway?

The record indicates he was discharged under Kings Regulations 392 (xvi) on 13-1-1919. "No longer physically fit for war service. At home")

He was buried at Dewsbury Cemetery on the 29th December 1920 the address given was 21, High Street, Batley Carr and occupation miner.

The informant at archives for him to be added to Batley War Memorial was Ann Longbottom of 52, Rock Villa Lodge, Warwick Road, Batley.

Frederick was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group