

## Frederick Wincott

Frederick was the eldest son of Charles and Hannah Wincott, who in 1901 were living a couple of doors from the post office in Moreton Morrell. Charles was an agricultural labourer and was born in Barston, Warwickshire around 1868. Hannah was born in Moreton Morrell about 1866 and was the daughter of Charles and Mary Faulkner. Charles Faulkner was also an agricultural labourer according to the 1871 census.

Frederick by the 1911 Census was shown as a private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Kings Own Hussars apparently in South Africa. Later in 1911 the regiment returned to the United Kingdom. Army records show that he joined the army and went to South Africa in 1909. Prior to joining up according to the army records he had been employed as a footman in Wellesbourne.

At the outbreak of War his Medal Record Index shows he entered the "Western Front as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1914. His army records show that he suffered a gun shot wound on 24 August 1918. We have not found any other record of Frederick's experiences during the war but the following extract from the Queen's Own Hussars Museum website summarises what happened to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Queens Own Hussars

Within the context of the 1914 - 1918 Great War the part played by any one unit among hundreds must be obscured by the grand strategy. The 3rd Hussars fought only in Northern France and Flanders, yet they gained twenty seven Battle Honors, double the amount they had won in the previous two centuries. None were on the scale of Moodkee or Dettingen, but the squalor and deprivation which epitomized the trench warfare, all were thoroughly earned.

The Regiment arrived in Rouen on 17th August 1914 and by the 21st was in action opposing the German Cavalry at Mons. For a fortnight the so-called Great Retreat saw the Regiment pushed back through Le Cateau over 200 miles until on the 5th September the British and French Armies turned, inflicting defeats on the Germans at the Marne and the Aisne. The struggle for Flanders began in October in Ypres with the Cavalry fighting as infantry holding the lines at Messines under intense pressure. On one day the Regiment lost fifty percent in Casualties. The War now developed into trench warfare with the 3rd employed around Ypres, St Julien and Bellewaarde lake until put into reserve in June 1915. Meanwhile they provided large squadrons for a Cavalry dismounted division fighting as infantry in the trenches. September

1916 and the battle of the Somme saw the regiment still providing labour behind the front, as well as their dismounted commitment, before wintering in Villeroy. For the battle of Arras in April 1917, the 3rd were once again ready for "the gap" but it did not materialise. Another spell as a dismounted regiment followed until Cambrai in November when, ready to push through the right flank they were again let down, but fought on foot in the latter stages. In March 1918 the Germans put together their final assault in which the 3rd on 1st April were ordered to take rifle wood, the vital ground the Commander-in-Chief had chosen. An exposed assault, left once again fifty percent casualties. In July the Cavalry began to pursue the German withdrawal, acting as reconnaissance for the slower infantry. The 3rd ended the war where they had begun it in 1914, at Hautmont, having lost 107 killed and 385 wounded in the intervening four years.<sup>i</sup>

In 1919, Frederick extended his service and joined the Tank Regiment he extended his service again in 1920 to allow himself to complete 21 years.

The records also show that his wife was Violet Josephine Davidson who he had married in 1924.

He left the army on 8 July 1927 as a F/Corporal with exemplary service with a pension of 27d per day for life. (Fifteen shillings and nine pence per week or nowadays about 75p pence per week)

The electoral roll for 1966 shows him living in Merton with Violet Josephine and it appears he died in 1967.

[Tony\\_whiteley@hotmail.com](mailto:Tony_whiteley@hotmail.com)

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.qohmuseum.org.uk/3rd.htm>