



COLLINGHAM IN THE GREAT WAR

Name of Soldier: White, Frank
 Lance Sgt
 2/5th King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
 No: 34489



| Date of birth | Date KIA | Age |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| May 1890? | 28 th March 1918 | 27 |

Background: Frank White

Unfortunately, there is little information available about Frank White.

On Ancestry.co.uk a Frank White (if it is the right Frank White) was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire and enlisted in Sheffield. His attestation paper showed he was born in 1890 and his parents were Isaac White (1867-1915) and Elizabeth White (1870-1945). The family lived on Attercliffe Road, Sheffield. On the 1911 census Frank was single and a baker. However, on the newly released records (2018) the rear of F White's attestation paper shows he later married a – (1st name illegible) Margaret Stubbs on 8th July 1916 and a son, Frank Donald White was born on 10th June 1919 (died 2002).

Another Frank C White (no 201682) of the Duke of Wellington's (West Yorkshire) also born in Sheffield, was killed the day after. Neither the archivist at the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Regimental Museum nor the webmaster of the Sheffield Roll of Honour database could cast further light on this soldier. There are 7 Frank Whites on the Sheffield Roll of Honour but no details for No 34489.

To confuse matters, the date given White was killed on the North Collingham (All Saints' Service Sheet), produced for the unveiling of the War Memorial Cross in 1919, is given as July 4th 1918. None of the scores of Frank Whites on search engines who lost their lives in the Great War are listed for that date.

There is no known connection to Collingham.

The only White in local trade directories of the period is a Mary Ann White (1862-1953), farmer, widow of Joseph White (1856 - 1902) who was from Bothamsall in Nottinghamshire.

Military History: Lance Sgt Frank White

Frank White's attestation paper shows he enlisted in December 1915 when he was 25yrs 7 mths with the 'West Yorkshire Regiment' and was called up in 1916 with the York and Lancaster Regiment. At some stage he must have transferred to the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI).

28th March 1918 would place L/Sgt White's battalion at the 1st Battle of Arras (part of the Spring Offensive) as the 2/5th KOYLI was then part of the 187th/62nd (West Riding) Division.

The First Battle of Arras, 28 March 1918 (Part of Operation Michael):

Third Army (under General Byng)

IV Corps (under General Harper) were:

41st Division

42nd (East Lancashire) Division

62nd (2nd West Riding) Division

New Zealand Division

4th Brigade of 4th Australian Division.

This 24-hour attack took place on the 8th day of 'Operation Michael', the German's attempt to break the deadlock of the war and split the British 3rd and 5th Armies.

However, the 3rd Army put up such resistance the German's were unsuccessful in that sector. In Haig's 6th Despatch written on 20th July 1918 he reported that (on the 28th):

'... the 62nd Division with an attached brigade of the 4th Australian Division also beat off a succession of heavy attacks about Bucquoy with great loss, to the enemy. Less important attacks at different points between Hebuterne and Dernancourt were in each case repulsed and led to the capture of a number of prisoners by our troops.'

– the Long, Long Trail

The fatalities of the 2/5th KOYLI on that day are currently unknown but included L/Sgt White.

WHITE, Serjt. Ernest James, 13376. 9th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 15th Sept., 1916.

WHITE, Lce. Serjt. Frank, 34489. 2nd/5th Bn. King's Own Yorkshire Light Inf. 28th March, 1918.

WHITE, Pte. Frederick, PO/2157 (S) R.M.L.I., 2nd R.M. Bn., R.N. Div. 27th March, 1918.

WHITE, Rfn. Frederick, 3461. 1st Bn. First Surrey Rifles. 23rd May, 1916.

WHITE, Pte. Frederick, 41087. 7th Bn. East Yorkshire Regt. 31st March, 1918. Age 19. Son of Frederick and Eliza White, of Wirksworth Rd., Belper, Derby.

WHITE, Pte. Frederick, 51432. 13th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 11th April, 1917.

WHITE, Pte. Frederick Charles, SPTS/1901. 23rd Bn. Royal Fusiliers. 28th May, 1916.

WHITE, Cpl. Frederick E., F/608, M.M. 17th Bn. Middlesex Regt. 28th April, 1917. Age 30. Son of the late Edward and Lily White; husband of Charlotte E. White, of 9, Lurgan Avenue, Hammersmith, London.

WHITE, Pte. Frederick S., 201033. 1st/5th Bn. Durham Light Inf. 23rd April, 1917.

L/Sgt F White is remembered on the North Collingham War Memorial Cross but not the parishioners' plaque inside the church. He is also remembered on the Weston (nr. Newark) War Memorial (All Saints Church), one of 9 men.

Left: Extracted list from CWGC grave registrations data (2nd name down) for the Arras Memorial, where F White is remembered on Bay 7. No next of kin given.

Sources:

- 🔴 Ancestry.co.uk
- 🔴 East Trent Genealogy database
- 🔴 Commonwealth War Graves Commission website
- 🔴 Long, Long Trail website (for details of battles & regimental histories)
- 🔴 Lynsey Slater Assistant Museums Officer (Military History) Doncaster Museums Service. KOYLI database here: <http://www.doncaster1914-18.org.uk/> With thanks to Lynsey for permissions to use the KPYLI WW1 cap badge on p1
- 🔴 Nottinghamshire County Council Great War Roll of Honour website
- 🔴 Sheffield Soldiers of the Great War database: <http://www.sheffieldsoldierww1.co.uk/Soldier/index.html>

Visit: KOYLI Regimental Museum, Doncaster This is housed within the Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery Chequer Rd Doncaster DN1 2AE Closed Mondays and Tuesdays



HP 2/4/2018