

Frederick Thomas Webb

104856, Gunner 134th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery. Died 4th Nov. 1918 aged 28

Frederick was born in 1890 on Warboys Fen the son of William and Maria (nee Broughton) one of 4 children. His father was a farmer and later a dealer and miller living in Mill Green. Frederick worked as a farm labourer.



When he was 25 Frederick enlisted in Warboys on 24 November 1915. His attestation form was signed by local JP, G S Newton, who was the father of **Gerald Newton** also on the War Memorial .Perhaps he was influenced by a recruiting poster like this.

Frederick's medical details tell us he was 5ft 9in tall and weighed 144 lbs with good physical development. The day after enlistment he was posted to the Army Reserve. He became a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery and spent the next 2½ years in England.

Recruiting Poster (University of Minnesota Australia)

Frederick went to France on 27 March 1918 and was posted to the 135th Siege Battery which manned the heavy guns on the Western Front. These were howitzers which had a range of 12,300 yards and fired 200 lb shells.

135th Siege Battery in France (National Army Museum)



Although The Commonwealth War Graves Commission gives his battery as the 134th I have only been able to find mention of this battery in Salonika. Frederick's military records clearly state he was sent to France and posted to the 135th Battery.

In the Autumn of 1918 Frederick caught the influenza virus sweeping across Europe He was sent to hospital in Rouen where he died on 4 November 1918 aged 28 of influenza and broncho pneumonia. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension as are **Charles Wilderspin** and **Sidney Moulds**.

In June 1919 the Army sent his property home: wallet, photocase, pipe, 2 x tobacco pouches, cigarette case and holder, wrist watch strap and guard, soap box and soap, cap badge, photos, letters, cards and 4 handkerchiefs, bible, pipe cleaner, writing pad, looking glass and pencil.

Frederick's mother died in 1927 and his father in 1930. He is remembered on their gravestone in Warboys Baptist Chapel yard with the epitaph;

**“Our loss is great, we'll not complain
But hope in Heaven to meet again”**

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