

FREDERICK WARREN

Born during 1879 at the Three Horseshoes pub in Saunderton, Buckinghamshire, England.

Killed in action on 22 October 1916 at the Somme, France

Commemorated on the War Memorial in the graveyard of St Mary and St Nicholas church, Saunderton, Buckinghamshire

Frederick was born to William and Rebecca Warren (née Beckett) in 1879. His birth was registered in July 1879 at High Wycombe, and he was baptised at St Mary and St Nicholas church on July 6th 1879 by the Reverend Oliver J Grace, the Rector. Frederick's father is listed as a publican.



Frederick was the fourth child and second son of William and Rebecca's eight children. He was listed as an infant in the April 1881 census, and as a scholar in the April 1891 census. On both censuses William and Rebecca were running the Three Horseshoes public house (*left*) on Bledlow Road in Saunderton. In 1891 William is listed as a publican as well as a watercress grower. It seems likely that he would have diverted some of the spring stream water that ran to the east of his home. Frederick's family had run the Three Horseshoes since his grandfather, John, moved to Saunderton

between 1848 and 1851. John's widow, Maria took over from him on his death on December 26th 1870, and William and Rebecca took over from Maria soon after their marriage on July 27th 1872. Maria lived on until 1889 but she left the Three Horseshoes, living out her last days with her daughter Ellen and her husband and four children.

At the time of the March 1901 census Frederick is listed as living at 3 Troy Mill Cottages, Hyde End, Rickmansworth in Hertfordshire he was an asbestos packer, which seems to be a very dangerous job. The census compiler has noted that he may have been 'misled' by Frederick about this occupation.

Frederick's enlistment records were destroyed by fire during the Second World War; but we know he joined the 2nd Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and he enlisted at Mill Hill in Middlesex. He was a private with Regimental Number G/25313. We also know that he died on October 22nd 1916 on the Western Front during the Battles of the Somme (*right*), which lasted from July 1st to November 18th 1916. Sadly, little is known about the circumstances surrounding his death. He was 37 years old. Over 300,000 men from both sides were killed during the battles. On October 1st 1916 the Battle of Le Transloy began and Le Sars was captured by the allies on October 7th 1916 as the weather broke and the battleground was turned into a muddy quagmire by heavy rain.



Frederick is remembered on the Pier 12 D at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme in France. He was awarded two campaign medals, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In common with most men serving on the Western Front, Frederick was encouraged to write a will, and he did this on August 6th 1916. He left 'the whole of my property and effects' to Hilda, his youngest sister.

Frederick's sister Clara married Albert Goodchild in 1906 and had three children with him before the war started and another in 1917, presumably the result of some leave for Albert, who had enlisted on October 25th 1916 into the 5th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. A qualified bricklayer, he was quickly transferred to the 643rd Field Company of the Royal Engineers and spent the war in England laying bricks. He survived the war and was demobbed on January 19th 1919 with a retained employment bonus set at 10/6d a week.

William's younger sister, Ellen married Reuben Hazell in 1879 and their eldest son, George enlisted into the 1st Battalion of Royal Berkshire Regiment on September 8th 1903. George was posted to Cairo in Egypt from September 24th 1904 until December 2nd 1906 and to Jhansi in India from December 3rd 1906 until October 11th 1912. Neither posting was strenuous for George, his Battalion forming garrison troops and relying heavily on local people to cook and support even the lowest ranks for small pay. George joined the first British Expeditionary Force to leave for France on August 30th 1914 and with his Battalion would have been involved in the fighting withdrawal from Mons, which marched 236 miles in 15 days. From September 9th 1914 the British attacked and crossed the Marne and Aisne rivers on September 14th 1914. The Battalion were involved in the first Battle of Ypres from October 22nd to November 13th 1914. George returned to England on August 29th 1915. He was posted back to fight in France from June 20th 1916 and would have been involved in the Battle of Deville Wood, the Battle of the Ancre and operations around the Ancre. George luckily survived and returned to England on February 21st 1917 and saw out the rest of the war in England.

Gary Knight March 31st 2014