



Frank Beatson Hinchliffe

1892-1918

Frank was born in Briestfield on 27th February 1892 and was baptised 2nd April at St. Mary and St. Michael's Church, Whitley Lower. His father was Walter Hinchliffe, a Blanket Finisher born in Flockton in 1859 and died in 1935. His mother was Ann (nee Beatson) born in Briestfield in 1861 and died in 1940. They were married on 18th October 1888 at St. Mary and St. Michael's Church.

Their other children were; John Herbert, born in 1889 and died in 1890, Charles William, born in 1894, Ellenor Sarah, born in 1897 and died in 1898, Annie Elizabeth, born in 1900 and Thomas Ernest, born in 1903 and died in 1906.

Frank was a single man who was educated at Whitley Church of England School and attended St. Mary and St. Michael's Church, later studying at Wheelwright Grammar School and then South Wales Teacher Training College, Carmarthen. He found employment as an assistant teacher at Boothroyd Lane Council School, Dewsbury.

He enlisted in September 1915 becoming a Sapper in the Royal Engineers with the Service Numbers 3133 and 476507 and was sent to the Western Front on 9th January 1917; he came home to study at New College Oxford and was commissioned on 30th July 1918 as a Second Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) and after returning to the front he was granted home leave in October. He was killed in action near Le Quesnoy, France on 4th November 1918 and was buried in a small battlefield cemetery, most probably Grand Gay Farm Cemetery, Louvignies-Quesnoy, about 1.6 kilometres South of Louvignies, in which were buried 24 officers and men of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. In February 1920 he was reburied in Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France.

Romeris is a village approximately 16 kilometres south of Valenciennes and 4 kilometres north-east of Solesmes. Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension is one of the burial grounds of those who died between the 10th to 26th October in The Battle of the Sambre, the last great action of the war which carried the front forward into Belgium and ended with the Armistice. The original extension (Plot I) was made by the 3rd and New Zealand Divisions and contains 128 graves. The remaining plots were made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from isolated positions on the battlefield, including a few graves of 25th August 1914 and a few smaller cemeteries. There are now 832 burials and commemorations of the First World War in the extension. 129 of the burials are unidentified.

Frank is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the War Memorial in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Thornhill and on the War Memorial Pillar in St. Mary and St. Michael's Church, Whitley and on the Memorial Plaque to former pupils of Wheelwright Grammar School.

In Memory of
Second Lieutenant
F B Hinchcliffe

5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 04 November 1918

Remembered with Honour
Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of the “In Memory” Website of Pierre Vandervelden.