



Frederick William Mackay MC

1886-1918

Frederick was born in Dewsbury on 16th June 1886 and baptised at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor on 14th July 1886. His father was William Grant Mackay, a Teamer born in Foleshill, Coventry in 1849 and died in 1912. His mother was Sarah Ann (nee Fletcher) born in Wakefield in 1843 and died in 1905. They were married at St. Peter's Church, Stanley, Wakefield on 17th December 1873.

Their other children were; Margaret Jane, born in Bingley in 1874, Alice Mary, born in Dewsbury in 1877, Fanny Louise, born in Dewsbury in 1879 and Sarah Ann, born in Dewsbury in 1882.

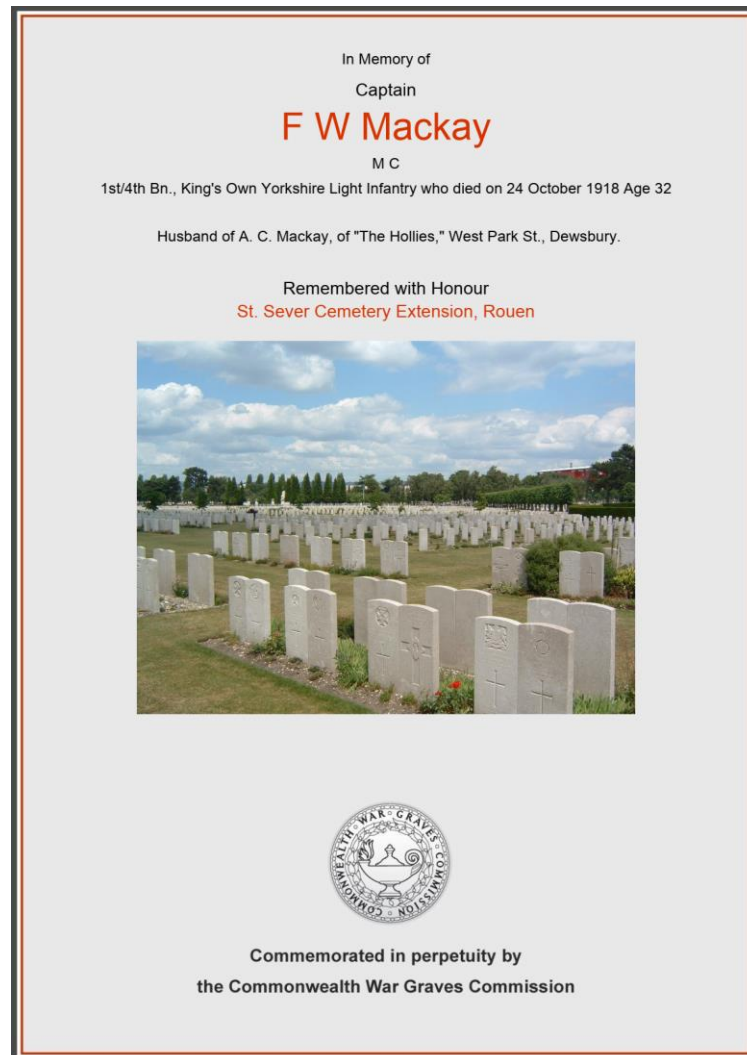
On the 1891 Census the family lived at 24, Thornhill Road, Dewsbury and in 1901 at 22, Brook Street, Dewsbury.

Frederick was educated at Boothroyd Lane Council School, Heckmondwike Secondary School and in his teens was a pupil/teacher at Eastborough Boys School; he was attached to St. James's Mission Church where he was a chorister. He entered the Civil Service and worked for the Excise Department at a number of locations; Liverpool, Glasgow, Brighton and Portumna, County Galway, Ireland. He was married to Amie Clara Archer (born in 1885 and died in 1969) on 31st August 1912 at St. Paul's Church, King Cross, Halifax; they lived at "Grove House" 48, Willans Road, Dewsbury and had a son, Ian Grant Mackay, born in Dewsbury on 30th June 1913 and went on to attend Wheelwright Grammar School and the RAF College in Cranwell. He rose to the rank of Group Captain and was Station Commander for the RAF Stations at Coningsby and Kirmington during World War 2.

He had joined the Dewsbury Territorials prior to World War 1 and despite still being based in Ireland he was with them in camp on the outbreak of hostilities. He was drafted into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 5441 and was sent to the Western Front in April 1915 with the rank of Company Quartermaster-Serjeant and was quickly promoted to Company Serjeant-Major in the 1st/4th Battalion. Towards the end of 1915 he was mentioned in the Despatches of Field-Marshal Sir John French and on December 28th was commissioned for services in the field; he was wounded in the head during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 but returned to his battalion six weeks later. In August 1917 he was appointed Adjutant and came home on a month's leave at the end of February, returning on the 20th March just before the start of the German Spring Offensive (*Der Kaiserschlacht*). He was severely wounded in France on 13th October 1918 and was hospitalised at Rouen, from where he sent several hopeful letters home; he died of wounds on 24th October 1918 and was buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France. Frederick was recommended for the Military Cross prior to his death, the award being announced posthumously in the London Gazette on 1st January 1919, he was also awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. Almost all of the hospitals remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920. The cemetery extension contains 8,348 Commonwealth burials of the First World War

Frederick 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. John the Evangelist Church, Dewsbury Moor and on the War Memorial from the now demolished St. James's Mission Church, now displayed in Dewsbury Minster.



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Mlle. Laure Guillaud, Le Petit-Quevilly, Rouen, France.