



## **Frederick Gratwick**

**Lance Corporal SD 676 Royal Sussex Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Division**

**Died 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917 aged 22**

Frederick was baptised at Shipley Church on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1895. He was the youngest of eight children, all born in Shipley, to Harry Gratwick and Fanny Rapley. In Frederick's entry in the Shipley Births Register his father was listed as a labourer living at Brooks Green, although later censuses record him more specifically as a well digger. The Gratwick children were Harry, (1880), Ellen (1881), Ida (1883), Albert (1886), Jack (1888), Herbert (1890), Emily (1892) and **Frederick** (1895).

Frederick features regularly in Shipley School logbooks kept by the headmaster, Mr Bacon. In 1907 he was caught stone throwing and in 1908 was reprimanded for damaging a post box in Dragons Green – symptoms of boyish high spiritedness! In 1909 he left school aged 14 to become an agricultural labourer, and the 1911 Census confirms that the 16-year-old Frederick continued in this employment.

Frederick was among a group of friends who enlisted together in Horsham in a "Pals Battalion", of the Royal Sussex Regiment - a "Lowther's Lamb". His service number is consecutive with that of his brother Albert, showing they went together to the recruiting office His name appears on the list of Shipley men who volunteered for service published in the Shipley Parish Magazine in November 1914 by the Reverend Baker.

He was commemorated in a service at Shipley Church shortly after his death in 1917, and the Reverend Baker offered condolences to his parents on their second loss. His brother Albert had been killed in action the previous June. There is no evidence in military records that Frederick was awarded the Military Medal as stated on the Shipley memorial. The reason could be due either to confusion with a person of similar name or loss of records which occurred during the London Blitz in 1941.

Frederick saw action during the Battle of the Scarpe, part of the Arras offensive. This was a successful action which broke through German front lines to attack reserves and materiel. The initial attack began at 5.30 am through snow, sleet and strong winds. The Royal Sussex Regiment was one of the first battalions to attack and capture three systems of trenches. It was during this offensive on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1917 that Frederick was killed in action.

Frederick is buried in Fauberg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, and commemorated in Shipley Church. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

In Memory of  
Lance Corporal

# **FREDERICK GRATWICKE**

Service Number: SD/676

7th Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 09 April 1917 Age 21

Son of Harry and Fanny Gratwicke, of Chivers Cottage, Shipley, Horsham, Sussex.

NOBLY HE ANSWERED HIS COUNTRY'S CALL

Remembered with Honour

**FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY, ARRAS**

VII.G. 9.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**