

## **Private Frederick Jesse Brown<sup>©</sup>**

**Regimental number: 203300**

**1st/4th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry**

**born: 1896 - died: 28 July 1917**

Private Frederick Jesse Brown was born in 1896<sup>1</sup> in Hull, Yorkshire,<sup>2</sup> the son of Alfred Thomas Brown (born in about 1854 in Masham, Yorkshire) and Anne Kezia Broughton (born in 1855 in Hull, Yorkshire). Alfred and Anne married in Sculcoates in 1877.<sup>3</sup> They had ten children: Joseph Edward (born in 1878),<sup>4</sup> James Broughton (born in 1879),<sup>5</sup> Ethel Jane (born in 1881),<sup>6</sup> Alfred Stuart (born in 1884),<sup>7</sup> Lily (born in 1886, but died the same year),<sup>8</sup> Florence Annie (born in 1887),<sup>9</sup> Albert Ernest (born in 1889),<sup>10</sup> Robert Henry (born in 1892),<sup>11</sup> Dorothy Lilian (born in 1894)<sup>12</sup> and Frederick.

In 1891, the family was living at 15 Rose Street in Sculcoates, where Frederick's father was a grocer's assistant.<sup>13</sup> Sadly, their first son, Joseph, died at the age of 19 in 1898.<sup>14</sup> In 1901, the family was at Queen Street in Withernsea, near Patrington, Yorkshire.<sup>15</sup>

By 1911, Frederick's parents were living at 12 Promenade in Withernsea. His father was now a grocer, employing others, including three of his children—Ethel, Albert and Florence.<sup>16</sup>

Frederick, who was just 14, and two of his brothers had left home. Frederick was a butcher's apprentice, living with Thomas Hobkinson, a butcher's manager, and his family at 12 West Park Road in Harrogate, Yorkshire. Frederick may have been Hobkinson's apprentice.<sup>17</sup> His brother Alfred was a commercial traveller and living with Douglas Congrave Marshall and his family at 2 Donnington Road in Sheffield, Yorkshire.<sup>18</sup> His eldest brother James was married and living with his wife and son at 2 Railway Crescent in Withernsea. He was still working as a grocer's assistant.<sup>19</sup>

Frederick enlisted in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in Hull<sup>20</sup> in November 1916.<sup>21</sup> He was serving with the 1st/4th Battalion when he died. This battalion landed at Boulogne, France, on 12 April 1915;<sup>22</sup> however, it is not known when Frederick joined the Western Front. He was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 22 July 1917,<sup>23</sup> where he died of gas poisoning on 28 July 1917 at the age of 21.<sup>24</sup> He is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: Plot II, Row L, Grave 16).<sup>25</sup> His father requested the following inscription for Frederick's gravestone:

MEMORIES  
FRAGRANT AND BEAUTIFUL  
FROM ALL HIS LOVED ONES AT WITHERNSEA<sup>26</sup>

Coxyde Military Cemetery (located near the village of Koksijde in Belgium) was about 10 kilometres behind the front line in 1917. Commonwealth troops had relieved the French forces in the area and the village was used for rest billets. Although the village was occasionally shelled, the cemetery, which had been started by French troops, was reasonably safe. "It became the most important of the Commonwealth cemeteries on the Belgian coast and was used at night for the burial of the dead brought back from the front line."<sup>27</sup> There are now just over 1,500 Commonwealth graves from the Great War in the cemetery.

His parents were living at "Aysgarth," Promenade in Withernsea after the war<sup>28</sup> and his father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.<sup>29</sup>

Although the records could not be found, Frederick likely awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).

Frederick's brother Robert also served and lost his life in the Great War.<sup>30</sup> Second Lieutenant Brown was serving with the 5th Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) when he died on 16 January 1917 at the age of 24. He is buried in Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery (Plot III, Row J, Grave 11),<sup>31</sup> near Arras in northern France. The same inscription that is on his brother's gravestone was included on Robert's gravestone.

Frederick's parents lost two sons six months apart in 1917. His father died in 1941.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Frederick Jesse, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 234

<sup>2</sup> "1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Fredk J. Brown, Registration district: Patrington, Archive reference: RG13, Piece: 4510, Folio: 25, Page: 11

<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales Marriages 1837–2005," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Alfred Thomas Brown, District: Sculcoates, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 3D, Page: 306

<sup>4</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Joseph Edward, Registration district: Louth, Volume 07A, Page 644

<sup>5</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, James Broughton, Registration district: Louth, Volume 07A, Page 631

<sup>6</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Ethel Jane, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 178

<sup>7</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Alfred Stuart, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 222

<sup>8</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Lily, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 210; "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Lily Brown, District: Sculcoates, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9D, Page: 152

<sup>9</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Florence Anne, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 232

<sup>10</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Albert Ernest, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 229

<sup>11</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Robert Henry, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 211

<sup>12</sup> "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 1 June 2017) entry for Brown, Dorothy Lilian, Registration district: Sculcoates, Volume 09D, Page 218

<sup>13</sup> "1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Alfred T. Brown, Registration district: Sculcoates, Archive reference: RG12; Piece number: 3930, Folio: 61, Page: 29

<sup>14</sup> "England & Wales Deaths 1837–2007," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Joseph Edward Brown, District: Patrington, County: Yorkshire, Volume: 9D, Page: 185

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- <sup>15</sup> “1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Fredk J. Brown
- <sup>16</sup> “1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Alfred Thomas Brown, Registration district: Patrington, Registration district number: 523, Enumeration district: 19, Sub-district: Patrington, Sub-district number: 1, Census reference: RG14PN28825 RG78PN1653 RD523 SD1 ED19 SN294, Piece: 28825
- <sup>17</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Frederick Jesse Broun [*sic*], Registration district: Knaresborough, Registration district number: 489, Sub-registration district: Harrogate, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 8, Piece: 25913
- <sup>18</sup> “1911 England Census,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Alfred Stuart Brown, Registration district: Sheffield, Registration district number: 510, Sub-registration district: Sheffield Park, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 27903
- <sup>19</sup> “1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census,” *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for James Broughton Brown, Registration district: Patrington, Registration district number: 523, Enumeration district: 19, Sub-district: Patrington, Sub-district number: 1, Census reference: RG14PN28826 RG78PN1653 RD523 SD1 ED20 SN34, Piece: 28826
- <sup>20</sup> “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Frederick Jesse Brown
- <sup>21</sup> Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratuity.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 18 May 2017); “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for F. J. Brown
- <sup>22</sup> “Unit History: King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry,” *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/445/kings-own-yorkshire-light-infantry>: accessed 7 April 2017)
- <sup>23</sup> “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* ([www.bifhsgo.ca](http://www.bifhsgo.ca): accessed 11 May 2017), entry for Brown, P. [*sic*]
- <sup>24</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Brown, Frederick Jesse. The journal of the chaplains of No. 1 CCCS indicates that he died on 27 July; however, all other military records show his date of death as 28 July.
- <sup>25</sup> The chaplain's journal from No. 1 CCCS indicates that he was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery in Adinkerke, near Veurne, Belgium on 28 July 1917. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that he is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* The last words “at Withernsea” appear to have been included on the gravestone, but it is not certain.
- <sup>27</sup> “Coxyde Military Cemetery,” *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 2 May 2017)
- <sup>28</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Brown, Frederick Jesse
- <sup>29</sup> “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for F. J. Brown
- <sup>30</sup> “UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Robert Henry Brown
- <sup>31</sup> *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org): accessed 1 June 2017), entry for Brown, Robert Henry.
- <sup>32</sup> “England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1966,” *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 2 June 2017), entry for Albert Thomas Brown