



## Frank Streather

Frank Streather was born in Corby on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1897. His father was Joseph Streather from Corby, his mother Susan Streather (nee Collins) from Great Yarmouth. The couple married in Corby on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1886. Frank Streather was baptised on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1898 in Corby. His father's occupation was given as stonemason.

### The Family

In 1901, the family were living in Main Street, Corby. Joseph was a self-employed builder. Frank had six sisters, Harriet, Alice, Annie, Nellie, Kate & Bessie.

In the 1911 Census, the family minus Annie (who was away from home) were recorded. Alice was now an assistant teacher, Nellie a drapery assistant, whilst Kate, Frank and Bessie were still at school.

### Military Service

Frank Streather enlisted in Kettering. Originally serving in the Northamptonshire Regiment (22264), he was transferred to 10<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (Battersea) of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) (G/10368).

The 10<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (Battersea) was formed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1915 and joined the 124<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 41<sup>st</sup> Division.

The Battalion was mobilised for war and landed at Havre on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1916.

Private Frank Streather is reported as being killed in action on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1916. He is buried in Delville Wood Cemetery.

Delville Wood was a tract of woodland, nearly 1 kilometre square, the western edge of which touched the village of Longueval in the Somme. On 14 July 1916 the greater part of Longueval village was taken by the 9th (Scottish) Division and on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the South African Brigade of that Division captured most of Delville Wood. The wood now formed a salient in the line, with Waterlot Farm and Mons Wood on the south flank still in German hands, and, owing to the height of the trees, no close artillery support was possible for defence.

The three South African battalions fought continuously for six days and suffered heavy casualties. On 18 July, they were forced back and on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup>



the survivors, a mere handful of men, were relieved. On 27 July the 2nd Division retook the wood and held it until 4 August when the 17th Division took it over. On 18 and 25 August it was finally cleared of all German resistance by the 14th (Light) Division. The wood was then held until the end of April 1918 when it was lost during the German advance, but was retaken by the 38th (Welsh) Division on the following 28 August.

Deville Wood Cemetery was made after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from a few small cemeteries and isolated sites, and from the battlefields. Almost all of the burials date from July, August and September 1916.

Commonwealth graves from the following were concentrated into Delville Wood Cemetery:- Angle Wood Cemetery, Ginchy, was in an "excavated shell-hole" in Angle Wood, to the North-West of Maurepas; and in them were buried 27 British soldiers (mainly of the London Regiment); Battery Copse Cemetery, Curlu, was between Curlu and Maurepas. It contained, in addition to French graves, those of 17 British soldiers; Bazentin-Le-Petit German Cemetery was at the South-East end of the village; in addition to the German graves, it contained five British soldiers (who fell in March and April 1918); Courcelette Communal Cemetery German Extension contained the graves of three British soldiers, one from Canada, and 1,040 German; Ferme-Rouge French Military Cemetery, Curlu, was close to Battery Copse Cemetery. In addition to the French graves, it contained one British soldier who fell in March 1917; Guillemont German Cemetery No.1, at the West end of the village, contained 221 German graves and those of seven British soldiers who fell in May and July, 1918; Lone Ridge Cemetery, Longueval, between Delville Wood and the centre of the village, contained the graves of 52 s Martinpuich German Cemetery No.1oldiers who fell at the end of August, 1918; Maricourt (De la Cote) German Cemetery, on the South West side of the village, contained the graves of five British soldiers and airmen; Martinpuich German Cemetery No.1, at the North-East end of the village, contained the graves of six British soldiers and one sailor who fell in March 1918; Martinpuich German Cemetery No.2, to the west of No.1, contained the grave of one British soldier.

There are now 5,523 burials and commemorations of the First World War in this cemetery. 3,593 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 27 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of three soldiers buried in Courcelette Communal Cemetery German Extension, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.



The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

***Lest We Forget***

**Frank Streater**  
of the The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

d.17<sup>th</sup> September 1916

