



## Frederick William Rudkin

Frederick William Rudkin was born in Harringworth in 1894. He was baptised on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1894. His father was Frederick Rudkin of Harringworth, his mother was Mary Ellen Rudkin (nee Watson). Frederick and Mary were married in April 1893.

### Family History

At the time of the 1901 Census, Frederick, Mary and their children were living with Frederick's father (Samuel) in Harringworth. Samuel was a "woodman" and aged 60 years old. Frederick was employed as a railway platelayer. Frederick and Mary's children were Frederick William, Elizabeth Grace and Martha Ellen.

Mary Ellen Rudkin died in 1909, she was buried in Harringworth on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1909. There is also a record of Elizabeth Grace Rudkin's death and her being buried on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1909, she was 14 years old.

In the 1911 Census, Samuel was 70 years of age. Frederick was still working on the railway. Frederick William Rudkin was employed as a labourer. Son, John Samuel (b.1902) and Martha Ellen were at school. The Rudkin's have a housekeeper, Jennie Hague from Lincolnshire.

### Military History

Records show that Frederick William Rudkin enlisted in Kettering. He served as a Private (6044) firstly with the Essex Regiment and then with the 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Border Regiment (5682,27638).

The 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion was formed in Carlisle on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1914. It joined the 51<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 17<sup>th</sup> Division. The Battalion mobilised for war on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1915 and landed in Boulogne. The Battalion served on the Western Front.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1917, the Battalion absorbed the dismounted Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry and were renamed the 7<sup>th</sup> (Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry) Battalion.

During late March 1918 the Battalion were stationed around the towns of Bapaume and Cambrai, France.

It is recorded that Private Frederick William Rudkin died of wounds on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918. Private Rudkin is buried at the Etaples Military Cemetery and commemorated on the Gretton War Memorial.



During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern or the southern battlefields. In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals, which included eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot, could deal with 22,000 wounded or sick. In September 1919, ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained. The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, the earliest dating from May 1915. 35 of these burials are unidentified.

Hospitals were again stationed at Etaples during the Second World War and the cemetery was used for burials from January 1940 until the evacuation at the end of May 1940. After the war, a number of graves were brought into the cemetery from other French burial grounds. Of the 119 Second World War burials, 38 are unidentified.

Etaples Military Cemetery also contains 662 Non Commonwealth burials, mainly German, including 6 unidentified. There are also now 5 Non World War service burials here.

The cemetery, the largest Commission cemetery in France, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

### Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Gretton History Society

*Lest We Forget*

**Frederick William Rudkin**  
of the Border Regiment

d. 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918