

Private Frank Roberts©
Regimental Number: 37227
2/8th Battalion, C. Coy, Lancashire Fusiliers

born: 1893 – died: 5 September 1917

Private Frank Roberts was born in 1893 in Middlewich, Cheshire, England.¹ He was christened on 5 November 1893 in the local parish church in the diocese of Chester.² Frank's parents were Edward James Roberts and Margaret Udilla [Lucilla] Rowlandson.³ Edward and Margaret had been married for a little over one year when Frank was born.⁴ They would have only one other child, who unfortunately did not survive.⁵ By 1901 the family had moved to Broughton, Lancashire, where Edward was employed as a domestic gardener.⁶ By 1911 they were living at Greyfriars Cottage, Broughton, near Preston, England, and Edward was still working as a gardener.⁷ Frank was 17 in 1911 and was working in house furniture.⁸

Frank enlisted early in the war on 4 September 1914 with "C" Coy, 2nd/8th Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers.⁹ Frank's battalion was formed in Salford on 29 September 1914 as a home service "second line" unit and remained in England until the end of February, 1917, when the unit mobilized for war and landed at Le Havre. The division was engaged in various actions on the Western Front until the end of the war.^{10, 11} Frank survived until 4 September 1917, when he was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with gunshot wounds to the abdomen, penetrating wounds to his right arm and knee, and a fracture to the tibia in his left leg.¹² He succumbed to his injuries the next day.¹³

Frank is buried in the Adinkerke Military Cemetery, West—Vlaanderen, Belgium, in Grave Reference Number: D. 9.¹⁴ He is buried in this small cemetery with 217 other soldiers and his headstone includes the following inscription, chosen by his mother: "His duty done, the ordeal o'er, he has marched through heaven's gate."¹⁵

Frank was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).¹⁶

In 1921 a cross was erected in Broughton, Lancashire, in memory of those local boys who were casualties of the Great War.¹⁷ Frank's name can be located there and on the Honour Roll found in the Harris Museum & Art Gallery in Preston, Lancashire. It can be viewed at:

<http://warmemorials.myfastforum.org/index.php?component=content&topicid=3046>¹⁸

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¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Registration district: Preston, Sub-registration district: Broughton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 3962, Folio: 112, Page: 21, Household schedule number: 148

² "England, Cheshire Parish Registers, 1538–2000," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 23 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Event place: Middleton, Cheshire, England

³ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Service No: 37227

⁴ "England & Wales Marriages, 1837–2008," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 23 November 2014), entry for Edward James Roberts and Margaret Axilla [sic] Rowlandson, County: Westmoreland, Country: England, Volume: 108, Page: 1171

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- ⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Registration district: Preston, Registration district number: 476, Sub-registration district: Broughton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 2, Piece: 25351
- ⁶ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Registration district: Preston, Sub-registration district: Broughton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 3962, Folio: 112, Page: 21, Household schedule number: 148
- ⁷ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Registration district: Preston, Registration district number: 476, Sub-registration district: Broughton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 2, Piece: 25351
- ⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Service No: 37227
- ¹⁰ "Forces War Records, Unit History: Lancashire Fusiliers," *Forces War Records* (<https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/267/lancashire-fusiliers/>: accessed 4 July 2016), entry for Lancashire Fusiliers
- ¹¹ "Lancashire Fusiliers - Battalions of the Regular Army," *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-british-infantry-regiments-of-1914-1918/lancashire-fusiliers/>: accessed 4 July 2016), entry for the Lancashire Fusiliers, 2/8 Battalion
- ¹² "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 21 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts
- ¹³ *The Wartime Memories Project - The Great War* (<http://www.wartimemoriesproject.com/greatwar/view.php?uid=222077>: accessed 4 July 2016), entry for Pte. Frank Roberts British Army 2nd/8th Battalion, C Coy. Lancashire Fusiliers
- ¹⁴ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 17 November 2014), entry for Frank Roberts, Service No: 37227
- ¹⁵ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁶ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 4 May 2016), entry for Frank Roberts
- ¹⁷ "Broughton War Memorial," *Broughton in Amounderness, Broughton Parish Council - History* (<http://www.broughtonparishcouncil.org.uk/our-village/history/>: accessed 4 July 2016), entry for Frank Roberts
- ¹⁸ "Wall of Honour," *Harris Museum & Art Gallery* (<http://warmemorials.myfastforum.org/index.php?component=content&topid=3046>: accessed 4 July 2016), entry for Pte. Frank Roberts