

Private Francis Murphy[©]
Regimental number: 240505
"A" Company, 1st/5th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment

born: 1893 - died: 4 August 1917

Private Francis Murphy was born in 1893 in Rotherham, Yorkshire,¹ the middle child of five born to Enoch Elijah and Elizabeth Murphy. Enoch was born in 1858 in Greasbrough, near Rotherham, and Elizabeth in 1871 in Wickersley, also near Rotherham.² Enoch and Elizabeth (nee Mullins) married in 1892 in Rotherham.³ Their five children were John Henry (born in 1890),⁴ Charles Henry (born in 1892),⁵ Francis, Thomas William (born in 1895)⁶ and Mary Elizabeth (born in 1896).⁷

In 1901, this Wesleyan family was living at 88 Hope Street in Rotherham, where Enoch was a brass finisher.⁸ Ten years later, they had moved to 111 James Street, still in Rotherham, and now both Frances and his father were brass turners.⁹

Frances enlisted in the 5th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment in Rotherham¹⁰ in November 1914¹¹ and joined the Western Front in France on 13 April 1915.¹²

At the beginning of August 1917, the 5th Battalion was stationed at Tétéghem, near Dunkirk in France. Since the end of July, the battalion had been subjected to enemy gas attacks, which had injured dozens of Other Ranks (non-officers).¹³ Francis was probably one of these, because he died of gas poisoning at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 4 August 1917.¹⁴

He was buried in Adinkerke Military Cemetery (Grave Reference: Row A, Grave 5).¹⁵ Adinkerke Military Cemetery is near Veurne, Belgium, just across the border from Dunkirk, France. Commonwealth troops held the Front from the Belgian coast inland for about 70 kilometres from June to November 1917. No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station was at Adinkerke for a short time in June. There are 168 Commonwealth graves from the Great War in the cemetery.¹⁶

Francis' mother, who was still living at 111 James Street, was his next of kin and was notified of his death,¹⁷ but his father received the monies owing to him from the army upon his death.¹⁸

Francis was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914–15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).¹⁹

Enoch's father died in Rotherham in 1924.²⁰

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¹ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 4 June 2017) entry for Murphy, Francis, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 724

² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy, Registration district: Rotherham, Sub-registration district: North West Rotherham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 04, Piece: 4395, Folio: 7825, Page: 16, Household schedule number: 112

³ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 8 May 2017), entry for Enoch Elijah Murphy, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire West Riding, Volume: 9c, Page: 753

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- ⁴ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 4 June 2017) entry for Murphy, John Henry, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 604
- ⁵ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 4 June 2017) entry for Murphy, Charles Henry, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 725
- ⁶ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 4 June 2017) entry for Murphy, Thomas William, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 782
- ⁷ "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 4 June 2017) entry for Murphy, Mary Elizabeth, Registration district: Rotherham, Volume 09C, Page 744
- ⁸ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy
- ⁹ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy, Registration district: Rotherham, Registration district number: 511, Sub-registration district: North West Rotherham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 4, Piece: 28077
- ¹⁰ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy
- ¹¹ Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 4 June 2017); "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy
- ¹² "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy
- ¹³ "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), Regiment or unit: Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment, Sub-unit: 1/5th Battalion, Division: 49th Division, Diary entry start date: Aug 1915, Diary entry end date: 30 Aug 1915, Diary dates: 1915 Apr - 1919 Feb, Diary entry location: Lancashire Farm. Piece description: Piece 2794/1: 1/5 Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment (1915 Apr - 1919 Feb), Piece number: 2794
- ¹⁴ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Murphy, F.
- ¹⁵ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 3 December 2017), entry for Murphy, Francis, Service No: 240505
- ¹⁶ "Adinkerke Military Cemetery," CWGC <http://www.cwgc.org/>: accessed 7 April 2017
- ¹⁷ "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy
- ¹⁸ "UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy
- ¹⁹ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 24 June 2017), entry for Francis Murphy
- ²⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 4 June 2017), entry for Enoch E. Murphy, Registration district: Rotherham, Inferred county: Yorkshire, Volume: 9c, Page: 893