

Private Frederick William Mounteney Winks[©]

Regimental number: 11936

7th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment

born: 13 May 1895–died: 10 May 1916

Private Frederick William Mounteney Winks was born on 13 May 1895¹ in Caistor, near Grimsby, Lincolnshire,² the son of George and Florence Winks.³ Both Frederick's parents were born in about 1879, just outside Grimsby—George in Riby and Florence in Waltham.⁴ George was a police constable who died at the young age of 33.⁵ He died in 1903, just nine years after marrying Florence Jane Simpson in Caistor.

When his father died, Frederick was only 8 years old and his younger sisters, Ellen Fanny (born on 18 May 1896)⁶ and Marjorie Emma (born on 5 October 1897),⁷ were just 6 and 7 respectively. After their father's death, the children were brought up by their mother in Grimsby. Frederick was, as his two sisters would be later,⁸ admitted to the South Parade Mixed School in Grimsby on 8 May 1899.⁹ He was just 4 and this was his first school.

In August 1901, he moved on to the junior boys' school. At the time, the family was living at 80 Fildes Street in Grimsby.¹⁰ Ten years later, they were at the same address, and a relative of Florence's, Eunice Simpson, was living with them. There were also two boarders—Mansell Johnson, a police constable (born in about 1878)¹¹ and Gladys Chapman. By now, Frederick, age 15, was a grocer's assistant.

Three years later he enlisted in the British Expeditionary Force, enlisting in the Lincolnshire Regiment¹² in about September 1914¹³ in Grimsby, just after the outbreak of the war. He joined the 7th Battalion, which was being formed in Lincoln when Frederick enlisted. The battalion landed at Boulogne in France on 14 July 1915 and Frederick was with his comrades.¹⁴

The 7th Battalion probably arrived on the Western Front in time to take part in the biggest British attack of 1915—the Battle of Loos in September/October. The French and British troops were trying to break through German defences in Artois and Champagne. It marked the first time the British army used poison gas in the war. However, the attack was unsuccessful and the British casualties were about twice as high as the German losses.¹⁵ Yet, Frederick survived this battle.

Although part of the Lincolnshire Regiment went to Egypt in early 1916, the 7th Battalion remained on the Western Front. In early May 1916, the battalion was stationed near Armentières. Although not engaged in a particular named battle, the battalion suffered casualties most days in the first half of the month. Frederick was probably one of them.

Frederick was admitted to No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station with chest wounds and died there on 10 May.¹⁶ He was buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord (Plot II, Row D, Grave 45) and his mother requested this inscription for his gravestone:

WORTHY OF EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE¹⁷

His mother, who was still living at 80 Fildes Street in Grimsby, also received the letter sent to notify the family of his death¹⁸ and the monies owing to Frederick from the army upon his death.¹⁹

Frederick was awarded posthumously 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).²⁰

In 1918, Frederick's mother Florence remarried.²¹ She wed Thomas W. Mansell Johnson, who had been a boarder with the family in 1911. In 1939, she and Thomas were living with Frederick's unmarried sister Ellen, who was then a hire purchase collector, in the family home at 80 Fildes Street. Thomas was now a retired police constable and Florence a police matron.²²

Frederick's sister Marjorie married Jesse Cordock in 1917,²³ about a year after her brother's death. In 1939, she and Jesse, an electric cable joiner, were living at 87 Alexandra Road in Grimsby.²⁴

Frederick's mother may have died in Grimsby in 1949,²⁵ but her second husband did not die until 1962.²⁶ Both her daughters died in Wiltshire—Ellen in December 1977 in Marlborough²⁷ and Marjorie ten years later in Swindon.²⁸

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¹ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Frederick Wm Winks, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 166_732_1_1, Folio / page no.: -

² "GRO online index–birth," *General Register Office* (<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>: accessed 10 November 2018) entry for Winks, Frederick William Mounteney, Registration district: Caistor, Volume 07A

³ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2018), entry for Frederick W. Winks, Registration district: Grimsby, Sub-registration district: Great Grimsby, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 17, Piece: 3090, Folio: 140, Page: 7, Household schedule number: 37

⁴ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2018), entry for Frederick W. Winks

⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for George Winks, Registration district: Grimsby, Inferred county: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 393

⁶ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Ellen Fanny Winks, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 166_732_1_1, Folio / page no.: -

⁷ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Marjory Emma Winks, Book type: Admissions, Archive reference: 166_732_1_1, Folio / page no.: -

⁸ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2018), entries for Ellen Fanny Winks and Marjory Emma Winks

⁹ "National School Admission Registers & Log-books 1870–1914," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Frederick Wm Winks

¹⁰ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 11 January 2018), entry for Frederick W. Winks

¹¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 29 November 2018), entry for Thomas W. M. Johnson, Registration district: Grimsby, Inferred county: Lincolnshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 280

¹² "UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914–1919," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Frederick Winks

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- ¹³ Based on “War Gratuity Calculator” (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>; accessed 18 May 2017); “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Frederick Winks
- ¹⁴ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Frederick Winks
- ¹⁵ “The Battle of Loos (25 September to 19 October 1915),” <http://www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com/history/battles/the-battle-of-loos-25-september-to-19-october-1915.html>; accessed 27 November 2018)
- ¹⁶ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca; accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Winks, F.
- ¹⁷ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org; accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Winks, Frederick, Service No: 11936
- ¹⁸ “No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station,” *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca; accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Winks, F.
- ¹⁹ “UK, Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901–1929,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Frederick Winks
- ²⁰ “British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914–1920,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 16 August 2018), entry for Frederick Winks
- ²¹ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1916–2005,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Thomas W. W. Johnson [sic], Registration district: Grimby, Inferred county: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 1559
- ²² “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Helen [sic] F. Winks, Ref: RG101/6404J/004/27, Letter code: —
- ²³ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 26 November 2018), entry for Marjorie E. Winks, Registration district: Grimsby, Inferred county: Lincolnshire, Volume: 7a, Page: 1227
- ²⁴ “1939 Register,” *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk; accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Marjorie Cordock, Ref: RG101/6405A/019/40, Letter code: —
- ²⁵ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 29 November 2018), entry for Florence J. Johnson, Registration district: Grimsby, Inferred county: Lincolnshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 280
- ²⁶ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 29 November 2018), entry for Thomas W. M. Johnson
- ²⁷ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Helen [sic] Fanny Winks, Registration district: Marlborough, Inferred county: Wiltshire, Volume: 23, Page: 1809
- ²⁸ “England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915,” *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk; accessed 27 November 2018), entry for Marjorie Emma Cordock, Registration district: Swindon, Inferred county: Wiltshire, Volume: 23, Page: 2376