

Sapper Frederick Stanley Hayward ©
Regimental number: 532426
1st Siege Company, Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers

born: 1882–died: 22 October 1918

Frederick Stanley Hayward was born in 1882 in Hammersmith¹ (now West London²) to George Henry Hayward, a carpenter,³ and his wife Harriet, née Atkins.⁴ Both George and Harriet were originally from the village of Wetheringsett in Suffolk.⁵

Frederick was the fifth of six children born to the couple. Their eldest, Elizabeth Sophia, born in 1869,⁶ died before she was a year old.⁷ Frederick's surviving siblings were Agnes (b. 1871),⁸ Charles John (b. 1875),⁹ William George (b. 1878),¹⁰ and Alfred Edward (b. 1883).¹¹

By the age of 19, though living at home, Frederick was working as a “compositor”¹² or, in other words, a typesetter.¹³ His older brother William and his younger brother Alfred were his only siblings also still at home; William was working as a carpenter and Alfred in the printing trade.¹⁴ Frederick's sister Agnes had married George Frederick Skinner in 1892¹⁵ and his eldest brother Charles had joined the Royal Engineers in 1894.¹⁶

Frederick lived in a boarding house at 9 Loughborough Park in Brixton, southwest London,¹⁷ in 1911 after his parents moved back to Wetheringsett when his father retired.¹⁸

Unfortunately, Frederick's service record seems to be one of the many destroyed by bombing in World War II. Nevertheless, based on the amount of the war gratuity paid out after his death, it appears that Frederick enlisted virtually as soon as war was declared in August 1914.¹⁹ When he married Louisa Kate Sweetinham at Eastbourne Christ Church in Sussex on 20 March 1915 his occupation was described as “soldier.”²⁰ The couple's daughter, Dorothy Winifred, was born on 20 January 1916, also in Eastbourne.²¹

The regiment that Frederick joined, the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers, is an unusual one: tracing its continuous history back to 1539, it is recognized as the oldest still-surviving regiment in the British Army; and, with the Royal Anglesey Royal Engineers, it shares the distinction of twice having the word “royal” in its formal title.²² The work of Royal Engineers during World War I included maintaining transportation links (rail and road), water supplies (sinking wells, laying and repairing pipes), communications, and fortifications (building and repairing dugouts, trenches, observation posts and gun emplacements).²³

The 1st Siege Company that Frederick eventually joined had been on the Continent since 1914.²⁴ The company was at Vlamertinghe, near Ypres in Belgium, in October 1915²⁵ and remained there until the following August, when it moved 126 km south to Contay, France. From that point on, the company's base of operations moved frequently, often every month or two, as individuals or groups of men were deployed to different but nearby locations on a daily or nightly basis as necessary.

As it was not part of a frontline regiment the company generally didn't suffer a lot of casualties. Nevertheless, on 20 October 1918 it experienced its worst incident of the entire war when an enemy mine with gas shells, described in the casualty report as a booby trap, blew up in one of the billets at Pont-a-Sault. Three other ranks or ORs (i.e. personnel who are not commissioned officers)

died, 10 ORs were wounded, and one officer and 32 ORs were gassed, leaving only six of the detachment unscathed. Frederick was one of the three who died.

Frederick died at No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station (No. 1 CCCS) on 22 October 1918.²⁶ A casualty clearing station was a military medical unit behind the front lines, usually located near transportation. Casualties who did not soon die or could not be adequately treated in the clearing station were stabilized before being transported to a field or military hospital.²⁷

Frederick was buried the next day²⁸ in Plot VIII. B. 20 of the Duisan British Cemetery²⁹ at Étrun, about 9 km west of Arras. The inscription chosen for the cross that marks his grave reads “Dearly Loved Husband of Louisa Hayward at Rest.”³⁰

The first burials in the cemetery took place in March 1917.³¹ No. 1 CCCS arrived at the beginning of September 1918 and was stationed near Duisans for two months. As a result of the serious and urgent nature of the cases admitted to No. 1 CCCS, the death rate was high in October—a total of 83 deaths occurred during the month.³²

Frederick was awarded posthumously the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre). That he did not receive the 1914–1915 Star (for service in a theatre of war between 1 January and 31 December 1915) suggests that despite his early enlistment, Frederick did not go overseas until sometime in 1916.³³

Frederick's mother **Harriet** passed away late in 1916,³⁴ not having to suffer the grief of losing her son. His father **George** died on 12 November 1927.³⁵

Agnes, Frederick's sister who had married George Skinner in 1892, had three daughters.³⁶ She died in 1933;³⁷ her husband died in 1947.³⁸

Frederick wasn't the only soldier in the family. His brother **Charles** joined the Royal Engineers at the age of eighteen in 1894.³⁹ Initially he was described as a “fair” carpenter. After training, he progressed to being a “skilled” carpenter and ultimately to a “very superior” carpenter. After serving in the South Africa Campaign (Second Boer War), 1899–1902,⁴⁰ Charles determined to make his career as a soldier, re-engaging in 1902 and again in 1904. By 1912 Charles had been promoted through numerous ranks and was a company sergeant major stationed in Cairo, where he was promoted again, this time to quartermaster sergeant. In 1915, Charles was commissioned a second lieutenant and retired as a captain.⁴¹ Charles married Mary (Mollie) Fisher when he was stationed in Chatham, Kent, in 1907.⁴² The couple had two sons and a daughter.⁴³ Charles passed away on 15 November 1953 in Newark-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire, with his wife surviving him,⁴⁴ though her exact death date is not known.

Nothing could be found with any degree of certainty regarding Frederick's brother **William** after 1901, when he was still living with his parents.

Alfred, the youngest of the Hayward children, married Elizabeth Robinson, known as Lizzie, in April 1905;⁴⁵ the couple had a daughter born in 1906 and a son born in 1911.⁴⁶ Alfred served in World War I like his brothers Charles and Frederick.⁴⁷ Initially assigned to the 10th London Regiment in August 1916, he was transferred to the 33rd (Works) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment early in 1917. Early in the war each infantry division created a “Pioneer” battalion that, though capable of fighting, was normally engaged on labouring work. In February 1917 a designated Labour Corps was formed (of which the 33rd (Works) Battalion was part) “to provide

working parties for military purposes as and when required and for civil work if they could be spared. They were for home service only."⁴⁸ Alfred was discharged on 4 July 1919. Lizzie Hayward passed away in the fall of 1936;⁴⁹ Alfred lived on until 1958.⁵⁰

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¹ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for Frederick [*sic*] S Hayward, Registration district: Camberwell, Sub-registration district: Camberwell, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 465, Folio: 140

² "Hammersmith," *Wikipedia* (www.wikipedia.org: accessed 29 August 2022)

³ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for George H Hayward, Registration district: Camberwell, Sub-registration district: Camberwell, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 465, Folio: 140. Note: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cites Frederick's father as William Hayward, his mother as Harriet and Frederick's wife as Louisa Kate. However, when Frederick married Louisa Kate Sweetinham in 1916, the banns list his father as George Henry Hayward. Marriage data indicate that George H Hayward married Harriet Atkins and census records confirm that George and Harriet had a son, Frederick [*sic*]. It seems clear that the CWGC entry is erroneous.

⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for Harriet Atkins, Registration district: Hartismere, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 778

⁵ "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for George H Hayward, Registration district: Camberwell, Sub-registration district: Camberwell, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 15, Piece: 465, Folio: 140

⁶ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813–1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for Elizabeth Sophia Heyward [*sic*], Record type: Baptism, Baptism place: All Saints, Notting Hill, Kensington and Chelsea, England, Register type: Parish Registers

⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for Elizabeth Sophia Hayward, Death registration place: Kensington, London, United Kingdom, Inferred death place: London, United Kingdom, Volume: 1a, Page: 62

⁸ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for Agnes Hayward, Registration place: Kensington, London, England, Volume: 1a, Page: 86

⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for Charles John Hayward, Registration place: Fulham, London, England, Volume: 1a, Page: 229

¹⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for William George Hayward, Registration place: Fulham, London, England, Volume: 1a, Page: 229

¹¹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837–1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 29 August 2022), entry for Alfred Edward Hayward, Registration place: Fulham, London, England, Volume: 1a, Page: 229

¹² "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for Frederick S Hayard [*sic*], Registration district: Camberwell, Sub-registration district: Camberwell, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 04, Piece: 493, Folio: 101, Page: 41, Household schedule number: 183

¹³ "Compositor," *Wikipedia* (wikipedia.org: accessed 6 September 2022)

¹⁴ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entries for William G Hayard [*sic*] and Alfred E Hayard [*sic*], Registration district: Camberwell, Sub-registration district: Camberwell, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 04, Piece: 493, Folio: 101, Page: 41, Household schedule number: 183

¹⁵ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for Agnes Hayward

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- ¹⁶ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for Charles John Hayward
- ¹⁷ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for Frederick Stanley Hayward, Registration district number: 25, Sub-registration district: Brixton, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 31, Piece: 2080
- ¹⁸ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for George Hayward, Registration district number: 210, Sub-registration district: Mendlesham, Enumeration district, institution, or vessel: 11, Piece: 10709
- ¹⁹ Based on "War Gratuity Calculator" (<https://wargratitude.wordpress.com/2015/08/16/gratuity-calculator/>: accessed 6 September 2022)
- ²⁰ "East Sussex, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938" *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for Frederick Stanley Hayward
- ²¹ "East Sussex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813–1920" *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for Dorothy Winifred Hayward
- ²² "Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers," *The Long, Long Trail* (www.longlongtrail.co.uk: accessed 13 June 2022)
- ²³ "The Corps of Royal Engineers in the First World War," *The Long, Long Trail* (www.longlongtrail.co.uk: accessed 13 June 2022)
- ²⁴ "Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers," *The Long, Long Trail*
- ²⁵ "1 Royal Monmouth Siege Company Royal Engineers War Diary," *The National Archives* (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/: accessed 13 June 2022), Date: 1914 November–1919 July, Reference: WO 95/244/1. Unless otherwise specified, all information about the battalion's movements and activities comes from this source.
- ²⁶ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 23 June 2022), entry for Hayward, S. [sic]
- ²⁷ "Casualty Clearing Station," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualty_Clearing_Station: accessed 4 July 2022). A very comprehensive description of the casualty clearing stations is presented in the blog "Casualty Clearing Stations During WW1" *Chiddicks Family Tree* (<https://chiddicksfamilytree.com/2021/05/09/casualty-clearing-stations-during-ww1/>: accessed 4 July 2022)
- ²⁸ "No. 1 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station," *British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa* (www.bifhsgo.ca: accessed 23 June 2022), entry for Hayward, S. [sic]
- ²⁹ *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 6 September 2022), entry for Hayward, Frederick Stanley, Service No: 532426
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ "Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (www.cwgc.org: accessed 4 August 2022)
- ³² "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13–1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (<http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>: accessed 4 July 2022)
- ³³ "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 4 August 2022), entry for Frederick Hayward
- ³⁴ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Harriet Hayward, Registration district: Hartismere, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 1126
- ³⁵ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for George H Hayward, Registration district: Hartismere, Inferred county: Suffolk, Volume: 4a, Page: 951
- ³⁶ "Corner Family Tree," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Agnes Hayward

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- ³⁷ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Agnes Skinner, Registration district: Lambeth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 409
- ³⁸ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for George Frederick Skinner
- ³⁹ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Charles John Hayward. Unless otherwise specified, all information about his military service comes from this source.
- ⁴⁰ "Second Boer War," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Boer_War: accessed 15 September 2022)
- ⁴¹ "1939 England and Wales Register," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Charles J Hayward, Schedule number: 91, Sub-schedule number: 1, Enumeration district: Roja, Borough: Southwell, Registration district: 431/1
- ⁴² "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Charles John Hayward
- ⁴³ "Cannell to Larner & Beyond," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Charles John Hayward
- ⁴⁴ "England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858–1995," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Charles John Hayward
- ⁴⁵ "London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754–1938," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Alfred Edward Hayward
- ⁴⁶ "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914–1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Alfred Edward Hayward
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid.* Unless otherwise specified, all information about his military service comes from this source.
- ⁴⁸ "The Labour Corps of 1917–1918," *The Long, Long Trail* (www.longlongtrail.co.uk: accessed 18 September 2022)
- ⁴⁹ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Lizzie Hayward, Registration district: Lambeth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 201
- ⁵⁰ "England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916–2007," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com: accessed 15 September 2022), entry for Alfred E Hayward, Registration district: Lambeth, Inferred county: London, Volume: 5c, Page: 1119