

Private FREDERICK COOK

Fred, as he was known, was born in 1889 in Brighouse, Yorkshire to John Cook, a groom and servant, and his wife Harriet. By 1891 the family was living in Walcote where John was born. The 1901 census doesn't mention John but says that Harriet is working as a laundress. By 1911 Fred was in Lutterworth working as a grocer's assistant. He enlisted with the 1st Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers.

The battle of Flers-Courcelette in September 1916 was the third main phase of the Battle of the Somme. It saw the first use of tanks in combat. Visibility from inside was poor, leading, on more than one occasion, to the tank directing "friendly" fire at its own forces. Nevertheless, their use seriously undermined German morale.

The Battalion left Mametz Wood on 14 September 1916 for its battle position. The assaulting troops left their trenches at 6:20 am on 15 September 1916. Fierce fighting followed in a confused situation. It is not clear how Fred died. It is simply recorded that he did, one of many to die on that day including George Silver with the Tigers. Fred was 27 years old. His death is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial, Picardie, France.



*At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*