

# The Storey Family – A Potted History

## **George William Storey (1886 — 1964) Grandfather**

George was the second child of William and Annie and had 7 brothers and sisters; Lucy, Sarah Ellen, George, Charles Edward, Wilfred, Mary Elizabeth and Lily. The family lived in Harthill and after schooling he worked from early teens on a local farm, possibly that of his grandfather William (from 1891 census) and later would join his father and older brothers labouring for local stone masons. By the time of the first world war he was a miner in Kiveton pit and in January 1916 married Irene at St Anne's Church in Worksop, a relatively new building at the time. It would be mining which as essential war work would have given George the option other than conscription as happened to his brother Wilfred. The last formal record is on the marriage certificate of Dorothy in 1943 where he is shown as a farm labourer. George and Irene had 11 children; Irene M (1916-1917), George William (1917-1918), Edith (1920-), Harry (1921-), Dorothy (1923-1991), Herbert (1924-), Arthur (1925-), Lucy (1926-), Morris (also Maurice) (1928-), Margaret Mary (1935-) and Pearl Ann (1943-).

## **Other notable Storey family members**

### **William Riding Storey (1844— 1917) 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grand Uncle**

William was your 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandfather's brother and born in Harthill in 1844. Unlike most of the family who stayed local to Harthill, William can be found in the 1871 Census as living in Sheffield. He was in business for himself and his wife Eliza and owned a Grocers shop on Pond St. Eliza had been born in Leeds and married William before 1871. Their shop that year was at 162 Pond Street, but this moves with each census to various addresses on Pond St and to Norfolk St in 1891. Many people living on the street were also employers and tradesmen with a variety of Railway clerk workers, drapers and a professional singer living next door. They also came from all parts of the UK; Kent, Worcestershire, Lichfield and must have been a fast moving area to live. In 1911 he was still running a grocery store in 16 Norfolk St, with 7 rooms. His daughter and son in law lived with him (his son in law listed as a Silver Moulder). William passed away in 1917, aged 72. He was living at 10 Commercial Rd, Grindleford in Derbyshire and left his estate to John Wheatcroft Marsh (£176), another Grocer of Northumberland Rd. in Sheffield. It's not been possible to determine a family connection to John Marsh.

### **Wilfred Storey (1893 - 1940) Grand Uncle**

Wilfred Storey was the brother of your Grandfather George William, born in 1893 he lived and worked in Harthill and with his father and brothers worked as masons labourers in the area, doing so at the time of the 1911 census. With large amounts of Anstone buildings in the area there would be plenty of work and would be a good alternative to the pit as the main employer in the area. Wilfred must have continued this work through the outbreak of the first world war aged 21. During the first two years of the Great War, the armies were still of volunteers, however the manpower shortages starting to come from the deadlocks on the Western Front and the failure of the Dardanelles offensive in 1915 meant that Britain turned to conscription in early 1916.

The passing of that act resulted in conscription of many military aged men and the cessation of volunteering. It was by this method that Wilfred would have received call up papers and on 10th March 1916 attended a recruiting depot in Rotherham to be enlisted. It was no longer possible to select a service or regiment as previously, although a preference could be given and if it was the Navy they had first selection rights. Wilfred's call up papers provide much detail about him and he

expressed a preference for joining the Royal Field Artillery. His wish was not granted and Wilfred was assigned to the 2/5 Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment (Territorial Force). These were no longer a Territorial Force proper and were part of the regular army. His Regimental Number was 4587.

His details are as follows:

Enrolment Papers (Pontefract Area — 65th Region)

Name: Wilfred Storey

Address: Chapel Yard, Harthill

Age: 23 years and 4 months

Occupation: Painter

Unmarried.

Enrolled 10-Mar-1916 at Rotherham

Descriptive Report on Enrolment

Next of Kin: Father, William Storey of Chapel Yard, Harthill.

Height: 5' 7 5/8"      Chest: 38" on full expansion.

His Military Record Sheet states his service but is heavily faded. It clearly shows he returned home on 20-Dec-1917 and had been in theatre (by his regiment on the Western Front) until the 19th December. This sheet also states he was entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

It states that he received serious wounds to the legs and ankles on the 27th November 1917, so we could expect that he had been hospitalised in France up to the 19th December while his condition was stabilised.

Additional forms on file are:

**Army Form 35112:** Receipt for medals, to which he signed for 7th January 1922.

**A telegram**, very faded, possibly from the time he was wounded. States 27 words;

Handed in at 0755 Attestive York....

... 29th November formerly seriously wounded now 241783 Pvt W Storey 2/5 Yorks and Lancs

**Transfer Docket:** To the Registrar of the War Hospital Huddersfield, 30/Jun/1918: 241783 Pte W Storey is transferred from this hospital to: Pavilion Brighton, 18-Jun-1918

**Army Form W3456 — and Army Form W3972a Discharge:** Discharged 29-Mar-1919. To Harthill Sheffield, signed by W Storey.

**Ministry of Pensions Form:** Stating that Wilfred was discharged from the Depot of the York's and Lanc's regiment, aged 26 and single to his home in Harthill. He is listed as having serious gunshot wounds to the right thigh, he was listed as 100% disabled with improvement to 80% disability over his period in hospital. He was discharged on pension of 27/6 from 22/Jan/1919 to 22/- from 30/Jul/1919, which would be further reviewed in 26 weeks.

**Army Form 3977a — Brought Before invaliding Panel**

Unreadable but transferred to Queen Marys Convalescent Hospital.

## **Transfer form to Pavilion Hospital Brighton**

Arrival with another soldier on 23.11.1918

## **Admission to Queen Mary's Convalescent Hospital**

States Pte W Storey was admitted on 25 November 1918, to the hospital at Roehampton. Printed text on the form states "After these men have been fitted with artificial limbs, they will appear before a final Invaliding Board for the purpose of discharge from the service.

Written notice on unknown form, possibly medical record sheet:

**No. 241783, Storey Wilfred.**

*Seriously ill: P94414, OC Gen. Inf. Roehampton 28/11/17*

*Formerly seriously ill, now Dangerously Ill, OC Gen. Inf. Roehampton .*

This form continues to describe the same, continued serious illness due to a gunshot wound(s). They appear as daily updates written in doctor's shorthand before eventual transfer to the hospital at Brighton Pavilion.

## **Form for Issuance of War Badge (to prove service)**

Issued to W Storey and to be worn on right breast, signed received by W Storey, Church View Harthill 10 Feb 1921, number 514008.

## **Service Record Sheet:**

|                  |            |                      |
|------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Home 10.3.1916   | 13.1.1917  | (310 days)           |
| France 14.1.1917 | 19.12.1917 | (340 days)           |
| Home 20.12.1917  | 23.1.1919  | (1 year and 35 days) |

This collection of papers gives insight into Wilfred's time in the British Army of the Great War. Being recruited he was assigned to a local Regiment the York's and Lanc's, to the 2/5 Battalion. They spent the first year training in England. The Regiment raised 22 Battalions in total during the course of World War 1 and recruited approximately 57,000 men during these years, 72 out of every 100 men were either wounded or killed. The Regiment was awarded 59 battle honours including 1,190 gallantry awards four of which were Victoria Crosses. 8,814 men of this Regiment died during the course of the war. The following is a brief of the Battalion history from the regimental website:

### **2/4th 2/5th Battalion Territorial Force**

- 21.09.1914 The 2/4th Formed at Sheffield and the 2/5th formed at Rotherham on 03.10.1914.
- Mar 1915 Both moved to Bulwell, Nottingham to join the 187th Brigade of the 62nd Division.
- April 1915 Moved to Strensall, then Beverley, Gateshead, Larkhill, and Bungay.
- Jan 1917 Mobilised for war and landed at Havre and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including;

### **During 1917**

The Operations on the Ancre, The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, The Arras offensive, The actions on the Hindenburg Line, The Cambrai Operations.

## **During 1918**

The Battle of Bapaume, The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battles of the Marne 1918, The Scarpe, The Battle of the Drocourt-Queant Line, The Battle of Havrincourt, The Battle of the Canal du Nord, The Battle of the Selle, The capture of Solesmes, The Battle of the Sambre.

11.11.1918 Ended the war in France, Sous-le-Bois near Maubeuge.

As we can see, a full year of training ensued before being sent to France. In being with the Battalion all this time Wilfred would most likely have seen action in all of the battles listed in 1917. The unfortunate end to his war came at the Battle of Cambrai. The battle ran from 20-November to 30-December 1918.7, Wilfred was part of 3rd Army under Gen. Byng in 62nd (West Riding) Division. They were in the centre left of the line next to the 51st (Highland) Division. The attack involved a large element of tanks (not the first major tank offensive, but one of the largest by the British to this time) and was the start of the new form of warfare which would eventually break the trench deadlock. Some 437 tanks were lined up for the offensive. The fighting was intense but the casualty rate much less than that at Passchendaele using the newer tactics, however from the dates above Wilfred would have been seriously wounded on one of 62nd Divisions assaults, although it would be hard to establish if this was in the early days of the attack from 20th November allowing time for his repatriation to the UK war hospital at Roehampton, or when the 62nd was fighting through to the 27th November in the last push of the offensive.

The battle was an attempt to break the German Hindenburg line on the Western front using massed artillery and tanks, but using new techniques to coordinate them and using a barrage which didn't rely on pre-registering the guns by firing which effectively gave away the imminent attack. This would use new sound ranging techniques along with new shell fuses and tanks clearing the way for the troops to follow behind. The attack was launched at 6:00am on the 20th November with 1003 guns targeting a creeping barrage 300yds ahead of the men. Initially strong gains on the first day slowed, but repeated attacks continued with the last on the 27th by the 62nd Division itself. This culminated in an 7x6 mile salient in the German line, where the men dug in and the following day were hit by 16,000 shells in the German counter-attack.

Clearly Wilfred had been very seriously injured and spent over a year in hospitals at Roehampton, Huddersfield and the converted Brighton Pavilion. During World War One the Royal Pavilion estate was used as a military hospital for wounded soldiers. Between December 1914 and January 1916 it was solely used for Indian Corps soldiers who had been wounded on the Western Front. The Pavilion, Dome and Corn Exchange housed a total of 724 beds. By 1916, over 4,000 Indians and Gurkha's had been treated there. The Royal Pavilion was one of three Indian hospitals in Brighton: the York Place schools were converted into a hospital for the more heavily wounded troops, while the Elm Grove workhouse was renamed the Kitchener Hospital and treated lighter casualties. Although the Kitchener was the largest, holding 2,000 beds, the Royal Pavilion became the most famous.

The medical sheets and discharge papers suggest he lost one leg at least to be replaced by an artificial limb which would have left him in a difficult position with work, especially where his early jobs before the war had been in active manual labour working for masons and painting.

Wilfred died in 1940, aged 47.

Ellis (Maternal Line, Second Generation Back)

Name of First Person in Line: Henry Ellis [1871 — 1951]

Relationship to William Melbourne: Grandmother

## **Family History Summary;**

Henry Ellis (1871 -1951) Great Grandfather

Henry was born in Retford, Nottinghamshire and unusually on his marriage certificate his listed father does not share his family name, but is one William Richards. Henry met Martha Williamson in the Laneham/Dunham on Trent area in the early 1890's and they married at Laneham church in 1892. At the time of the 1901 census they were living in Dunham with Henry as a general labourer and a growing family. By 1911 they were living in Kiveton Park and like several other of the wider family members had followed work to the colliery. They had 9 children and had fortunately not lost any by the time of this census. He was a Coal Hewer on the face and two of his sons Henry and John were pony drivers in the pit also.