

130: Frank Dudley

Basic Information [as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC]

Name as recorded on local memorial or by CWGC: F. Dudley

Rank Private

Battalion / Regiment: 5th Bn. Yorkshire Regiment

Service Number: 35750

Date of Death: 13 September 1918

Age at Death: 19

Buried / Commemorated at: Niederzwehren Cemetery, Niederzwehren, Kasseler Stadtkreis, Hessen, Germany

Additional information given by CWGC: The son of the late William P. Dudley and of Agnes Dudley of Hinderton Road, Neston

Frank Dudley was the fourth child, and eldest son, of tailor William Percy and Agnes Dudley.

William Percy Dudley married Agnes Newton in the Pontypridd district in July / September 1890 and the family appears to be well-travelled, having lived in a number of locations in England and Wales. It is probable that, as a family, they did not live in Neston and, probably, Agnes did not move to Neston (and for reasons unknown) until after William's death (date unknown). Certainly, Kelly's Directory for 1914 does not list William or Agnes in the town. Frank's connection to Neston is, therefore, considered to be tenuous at best.

In the 1901 census the family was living in the small village of Llanbeblig near Caernarvon, the family having moved there from Nantwich where Frank was born in late 1897:

Percy Dudley	Head	m	34	Outfitter's manager	worker	Kidderminster
Agnes Dudley	Wife	m	30			Glanmorgan Merthyr
Mattie Dudley	Daughter		9			Glanmorgan Porth
Amy Dudley	Daughter		7			Chester
Dolly Dudley	Daughter		5			Cheshire Nantwich
Frank Dudley	Son		3			do
Ethel Dudley	Daughter		10mo			Caernarvon Llanbeblig

1901 census (extract) – 35, Margaret Street, Llanbeblig, Caernarvonshire

Percy Dudley	34	outfitter's manager	born Kidderminster
Agnes	30		born Glanmorgan, Merthyr
Mattie	9		born Glanmorgan, Porth
Amy	7		born Chester
Dolly	5		born Nantwich
Frank	3		born Nantwich
Ethel	10 months		born Caernarvon, Llanbeblig

By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved and was living in Bream, a village in the Forest of Dean, west Gloucestershire (Frank is not commemorated on the village war memorial):

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.																
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.																
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.																
NAME AND SURNAME		RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Person aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person born in a Foreign Country	INFIRMITY		
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Monday, April 3rd, not having been enumerated elsewhere. No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Examples on back of Schedule.)		State whether "Head" or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widowed," or "Widow," opposite the names of all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	Completed years the present marriage has lasted. If less than one year write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Officer, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working as Home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc. and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Immigrant" or "Visitor" in this Country.	State whether— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalized British subject," giving year of naturalization. (3) "Lunatic," or "Feeble-minded," or "Fetid," state the infirmity appertaining to person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.	If any person included in this Schedule is— (1) "At Sea," or "Dead," or "Dumb," or "Blind," or "Deaf," or "Insane," or "Imbecile," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity appertaining to person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
			Age of Males.	Age of Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1	Wm Percy Dudley	Head	45	Married	21	7	9	None	Tailor	Spanner	None	Home	Balsall Heath	English	None	
2	Agnes Dudley	Wife	42	Married	21	7	7	0				Home	Porth	Glamorganshire	None	
3	Mattie Dudley	Daughter	19	Single					Dressmaker			Home	Porth	Glamorganshire	None	
4	Amy Dudley	"	17	"					Servant			Home	Chester	England	None	
5	Dolly Dudley	"	15	"					Servant			Home	Chester	England	None	
6	Frank Dudley	Son	11	"					School Boy			Home	Nantwich	Cheshire	None	
7	Ethel Dudley	Daughter	11	"					"			Home	Nantwich	Cheshire	None	
8	William Dudley	Son	10	"					"			Home	Carnarvon	Wales	None	
9	Sidney Dudley	Son	4	"					"			Home	Hemelsfield	Glos	None	

1911 census (condensed) – Bream, Gloucestershire

Wm. Percy Dudley	45	tailor	born Balsall Heath, Warwickshire
Agnes	42		born Porth, Glamorganshire
Mattie	19	dressmaker	born Porth, Glamorganshire
Amy	17	servant	born Chester
Dolly	15	servant	born Chester
Frank	12		born Nantwich
Ethel	11		born Nantwich
William	10		born Carnarvon
Sidney	4		born Hemelsfield, Glamorganshire

William and Agnes had been married for 21 years and all seven children had survived.

Little is known of Frank's army service but The Yorkshire Regiment, First World War, website states the following:

Private Frank Dudley. 35750. 5th Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment, formerly 4171 12th Yeo Cyclists Battn. Son of the late William P. Dudley and of Agnes Dudley, of Hinderton Rd., Neston, Cheshire. Killed 13 September 1918. Aged 19. Born St. Briavels (Gloucester), Enlisted Sidney, Resided St. Briavels (Glos). Buried NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY.

Some of these details, however, do not accord with known information - he was not born at St Briavels (although it is possible that he, or his family, were living there at the time of his enlistment) and Sidney is not a place in Gloucestershire (although Sidney was the name of his younger brother and *Lydney* is a small village about 5 miles east of St Briavels!). Additionally, Frank was not killed but died as a prisoner of war.

Nothing is known of Frank's earlier service with the 12th Yeomanry Cyclist Battalion, or of this battalion.

On the outbreak of WW1 the cyclist battalions were employed on Coastal Defences in the United Kingdom. Their role was considered to be so important that, initially, none of them was sent overseas. In 1915, the Army Cyclist Corps. was founded to encompass these battalions; it later extended to cover a dozen more battalions raised from second-line yeomanry regiments which had been converted to cyclists. Most units of the Corps. served out their time in the United Kingdom, providing replacement drafts to infantry battalions; some were converted back to conventional infantry and saw active service. [Wikipedia]

The 1/5th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment - a Territorial Force battalion of the Green Howards - was formed in August 1914 in Scarborough, a part of the York & Durham Brigade, Northumbrian Division; their full designation was the Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment. On 17 April 1915 the troops landed at Boulogne and on 14 May 1915 the formation became the 150th Brigade, 50th (Northumbrian) Division. On 15 July 1918 the unit was reduced to cadre strength (a group of officers or NCOs around whom a unit was formed) and was moved to the Lines of Communication. On 16 August 1918 they transferred to the 116th Brigade, 39th Division.

Frank was taken as a prisoner of war and died whilst in the Langensalza prisoner of war camp in Germany and the Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects record notes that Frank died of exhaustion.

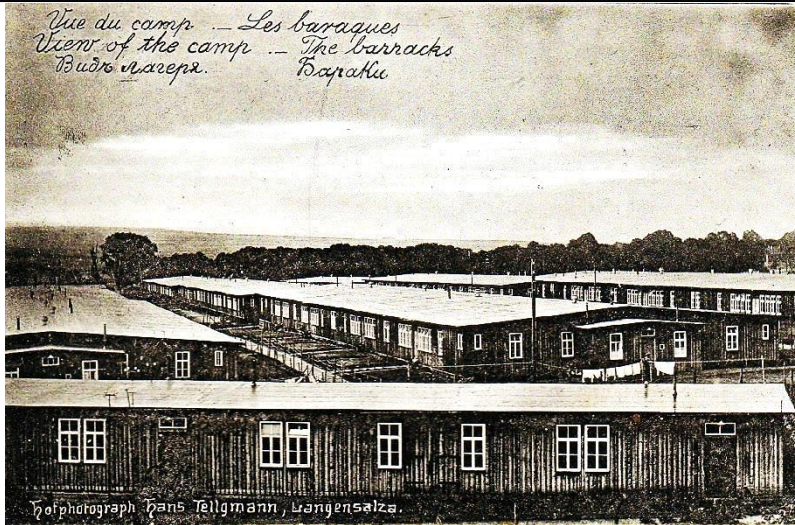
Langensalza (now Bad Langensalza) is a spa town of 17,500 inhabitants in the district of Unstrut-Hainich, Thuringia, Germany; the camp was opened in 1914 and consisted of hutments, each holding 250 men, with a capacity (commonly exceeded) of 10,000. Conditions at Langensalza were described by another prisoner of war, Corporal Golding (235590, the 8th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment), who had been captured on 28 May 1918:

We were first of all put into an isolation camp, but the accommodation was abominable. One thousand men were quartered in three overcrowded barrack huts, and we suffered great discomfort... Whilst I was at Langensalza Captain Alexander [the camp commandant] was very strict indeed. We had been told that he was well disposed towards the British prisoners, but he allowed no indulgence or privileges of any sort to the British N.C.O.'s. In my opinion, he could have done a good deal to improve the conditions of the camp, and particularly the sanitation, which was very bad indeed. Had he wished to do so, I think also that he might have done something to relieve the British prisoners who came into Langensalza from working behind the lines. These men were in



Langensalza POW Camp

Sources: top - <http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/>
 lower - <http://www.genealogie-bazadais.fr/Langensalza.htm>



*Vue du camp -- Les baraques
 View of the camp -- The barracks
 Видъ лагеря -- Баракки*

Photograph Hans Tellmann, Langensalza.



*La popote
 The cooking hour
 Общественный чай*

Photograph Hans Tellmann, Langensalza.

a terrible state of emaciation, without clothing, when the Help Committee were able to give them food, and although they nearly all went to hospital, the only medical comforts and food they got came from the Help Committee....

Feldwebel Rost was specially hard and brutal in his treatment of prisoners. In July 1918 I witnessed the following incident.

The prisoners were on parade, and many of them, being cripples, had difficulty in moving out of the huts. Rost rushed into the barrack, and, without giving the maimed men the time to get out, he caught hold of a private who was very badly wounded in the abdomen, and had to walk with a stick, by the back of the neck and threw him violently down the steps. This is only one of the many instances of his bullying; he was also responsible for sending many men to the salt mines who were quite unfit to go there. The full name of this man is Feldwebel Rost, 6th Company; he lived at Jena, and his occupation is students' servant.

[Feldwebel was the highest ranking Non-Commissioned Officer until 1918, the Feldwebel acting as Company Sergeant Major or Regimental Sergeant Major].

The Niederzwehren Cemetery, where Frank is buried, was begun by the Germans in 1915 for the burial of prisoners of war who died at the local camp and during the war almost 3,000 Allied soldiers and civilians, including French,

Russian and Commonwealth, were buried there.

In 1922-23 it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died all over Germany should be brought together into four permanent cemeteries.

Niederzwehren was one of those chosen and in the following four years, more than 1,500 graves were brought into the cemetery from 190 burial grounds in Baden, Bavaria, Hanover, Hesse and Saxony. There are now 1,796 First World War servicemen buried or commemorated in the Commonwealth plot at Niederzwehren.

A total of 927 men from the 5th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment died in WW1.

Agnes Dudley, Frank's mother, died on Wirral in early 1956 aged 88. William Percy Dudley, Frank's father, died in Neston in mid-1925 aged 68. Agnes Dudley has not been located in the 1939 Register and, in 1939, there is no record of anyone of this surname in Neston.

No marriages on Wirral between 1911 - 1951 appear to relate to any of Frank's siblings, suggesting that they were not living in the district.

No newspaper articles or announcements have been found relating to the death of Frank Dudley.

852380 ^E 722287/j	Dudley	5 th Bn	13.9.18	York	✓	19	16	1	3.7.19, Father William P.	19	16	1
	Frank	Norths Regt	Exhaustion	3/19								
		Pte	Pte 4D									
		35750	Langensley									
	Including War Gratuity £9.											

Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, 1901-1929

In Summer 1919 the army paid outstanding credits – mainly remaining wages – to soldiers or, in the case of those who had died, their family or nominated representatives. At the same time a War Gratuity was often paid. In July 1919 Frank's father, William, received a payment of outstanding wages of £10 16s 1d from the army and a War Gratuity of £9. This, a total value of £19 16s 1d, is equivalent to a *labour value* (wages) of around £3050 in 2016.

The War Gratuity was introduced in December 1918 as a payment to be made to those men who had served in WW1 for a period of 6 months or more home service or for any length of service if a man had served overseas. The rules governing the gratuity were implemented under Army Order 17 of 1919 but the amount paid was related to the length of war service.

British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920

Name	Corps	Rank	Regtl. No.
109 DUDLEY Frank	York R	Pte	35450
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	4/1101 B 16	1482	Head
BRITISH	— do	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

I watched the boys of England where they went
Through mud and water to do appointed things.
See one a stake, and one wire-netting brings,
And one comes slowly under a burden bent
Of ammunition. Though the strength be spent
They "carry on" under the shadowing wings
Of Death the ever-present. And hark, one sings
Although no joy from the grey skies be lent.

Are these the heroes--these? have kept from you
The power of primal savagery so long?
Shall break the devil's legions? These they are
Who do in silence what they might boast to do;
In the height of battle tell the world in song
How they do hate and fear the face of War.



"To England - A Note"

Ivor Bertie Gurney

(1890 - 1937)

