Great War West Sussex 1914-1918
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From left to right: Mary with baby Ronald; Anthony; Elsie (Mary's) Stanley; Wilf; with Harold still in skirts.

Frampton Bros were one of the most successful Worthing glasshouse growers. During his latter years, Joseph Wilf's partner and founder of the business was in poor health (diabetes and etc.). This meant that one of his sons stayed to look after the business and the others went to war. Wilf was the only one of them that was unfortunately killed. However, the business was still successful, despite Joseph's poor health, and closed in 1897, 100 years after the first lease was purchased. The business did well, making them very wealthy, and also a local park in Worthing was taken by the crops were mostly successful and of high quality, meaning that they sold no more.
This photo, probably taken around 1899-1902, shows that the Framptons were well off enough to have a photo taken - as it would've been fairly expensive. As well as this, they are all wearing their best clothing, with (particularly Mary's clothes) a lot of silk, and fine materials. The backdrop is very grand, great columns with carved patterns in the right corner. It all projects wealth, which is probably the purpose of the picture. I think that this would be either displayed publicly, or somewhere obvious visitors could see in the house.

From left to right: Mary with baby Ronald, Anthony, Elsie (Mary), Stanley, Wilfred, with Harold in skirts.

Frampton Bros was one of the most successful working class family grew. During his later years, Joseph, Wilfred's father, and founder of the business, was in poor health (dying while). This meant that one of his sons stepped in to take after the business while the others went to war. Wilfred was the only one of them that was unfortunately killed. However, the business was still successful despite Joseph's poor health, and lasted in 1947, 100 years after the first 4 acres of land was bought. The business did well, making them very wealthy, and also a crucial part in Worthing society. Their crops were mostly successful, and of high quality - meaning that they sold for more.
The business was a good source of income, particularly as during the war, many men had to leave their jobs to join the army, and although they were still paid, there was always an uncertainty of death.

As Wilfred was fairly young when he joined, he may not have had a job, and due to his father’s bad health, most likely just helped out in the workshop. As it was named the family name, I suspect it was named for the children to help whenever they could, particularly in the earlier days of the business.

James Frampton in Mary Anthony 1886

Anthony Stanley Elsie Wilfred Harold Ronald Dorothy 1887 1888 1890 1893 1896 1898 1903

THE FRAMPTONS
Died 4th Dec
1917

Sir Douglas Haig, the Commander in Chief, concluded the offensive as a failure and reversed his decision about the ability of Harms to win the war. This was mainly based on his past three or so months. There were 35,000 Canadians and 40,000 French, but the rest were drawn from the British Army. Even though the Canadian infantry were very inexperienced, the outcome was disastrous. Many soldiers were killed in action, and it was a very costly operation. Haig's decision to withdraw was not well-received by the British public, and it was one of the reasons for his resignation in 1918.

William died on 4th December 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai. I have found no known grave, and seeing that he is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, as well as a plaque near the cemetery, I suspect that his body has never been recovered. I believe this because many bodies weren't found, and those that were were often buried at sea or in old crevices in the ground. The family didn't want him to be buried in England, but many who were killed in action had no family to claim the body.
The Battle of Cambrai, 1917

During the planning of the Cambrai offensive, the Lieutenant Colonel decided to use 3 of the Reserve divisions as they were better trained and had arrived in the area. The Commander in Chief wasinode to his plan. The German had reinforced this sector, he might make his preparations. The Commander in Chief, Haig, was not held this information, which led to a tank attack at Peronne. The attack was launched on the 20th November and completely surprised the German enemy. This progress towards Cambrai continued until 10 days after the attack was launched. The Germans launched a counter-offensive. By the time the fighting ended, the Germans were almost entirely removed by the Germans.
LIFE AS A PRIVATE

The rank of a private was the lowest in the hierarchy of the army, known as a ‘Tommy’ or ‘Tommy Atkins’. They were left to sleep in the trenches, with a high risk of trench foot. Many wrote about the horrors of the trenches, either through poetry or just an honest account.

The trenches were lined by metal tents, and it was said that the environment was like “living in a pigsty”. One Private said of the trenches:

“During the day we were working in the mud, and we would scavenge our hours sleeping... when we could, on a wet and muddy floor. We slept well through the fen ourselves, and we slept well.”

A private would wear full battle dress, with knee-length knickerbocker pants, a khaki jacket and a service dress cap with the regimental badge. The Private would also wear a helmet and a metal plate on his back. He would also wear two pockets, one of which was a fountain pen, and a small metal case for a cigarette. He would also carry a table knife, an eating spoon, and a trenching tool. A small and large pipe were carried as accessories, together with other items such as cigarettes and tobacco.

The Private’s uniform was designed to offer protection, but it was heavy and cumbersome. They would often have to carry heavy equipment, such as a-HMS, a large and heavy piece of equipment. The Private would also carry a shovel, a pick, and a longhandled shovel. They would also carry a water bottle, a canteen, and a haversack to carry their rations and equipment. The Private’s uniform was designed to offer protection, but it was heavy and cumbersome.
The Royal Fusiliers
72nd (Service) Battalion
(Kensington)

11 September 1914

Formed by the Mayor and the borough of Kensington, at White City.

June 1915

They came under the command of the 99th Brigade, 33rd division.

November 1915

Landed at Boulogne, France.

25 November 1915

Transferred with the Brigade to the 2nd division.

3 February 1918

Disbanded in France.
Weapons

He might have used

Machine Guns

Machine guns were one of the newer inventions in the war and one of the main reasons so many died. Men who went over the top of the trenches had little chance when the enemy started using the guns. As rifles had not changed to fit in with this new weapon, hundreds of rounds of ammunition per minute was shot out the infantry charge. The British machine gunners were paid £2.5 per week.

Bayonets

A bayonet is a weapon designed to fit on the muzzle of a rifle or similar weapon. It was more than anything a close combat and a weapon to be used as a last resort. The advantage was that, if in close proximity, it was less likely to injure your fellow soldiers compared to using a rifle. However, if someone was close enough to use it, they could use it to stab.
Hand Grenades

An explosive chemical or gas bomb, it was thrown most often by hand, or possibly a grenade launcher. They were fairly simplistic during WWI. Basically an empty can filled with gun powder and steel, with a very simple fuse. Various different types had to be invented to make them safe for the thrower. However, many backfired and exploded too soon.

Rifles

The main type of rifle used by British soldiers in the trenches was the Lee-Enfield rifle. Up to 15 rounds could be fired per minute, and a person 1-400m or 1-4 km away could be hit. Success did vary on the skill of the soldier. Although the rifle shot 80 times slower than the machine gun, almost every soldier had one. A rifle only held one round in the magazine.
My friend found my soldier on a website whilst looking for her own soldier, and asked if I would like him, as she was looking for someone who lived down her own road. I chose him because he lived down my road and the number of his house is the one before my own house number. I had already found a soldier, who lives on the road next to mine, and in that case, location was again a big factor. However, as this soldier lived right down my road, I found that particularly exciting as 100 years ago, he would've lived right up my road. I would've liked to have found my soldier myself, but I'm still glad my friend found him, because he was a really interesting person to research.

To find my evidence, I used many of the websites in a list, given in class by people from the library. I found the long long trail a really useful website for the information about the division my soldier was in, considering at one point I thought I wouldn't be able to find anything. Another website I found really useful was Spartacus, which contained all the details of the battle my soldier died in, which was very specific and told me a lot about the attitudes of people at the time when it came to using old military tactics. I also emailed Worthing Reference Library about a copy of the census as I could not access ancestry.com at home, and after a few emails they told me a man who was descended from the Linfields, a family who were very close friends to my family, had come into the library to do his own research. They gave me his email, and he sent me most of the pictures I actually have of my soldier, as well as an article about the Framtons. This included information on the family company as well as mentioning the death of my soldier, as well as information backing up my information on the limited family tree I have of the Framtons. Some of the evidence I found by searching through Google and using websites which were not publicly edited, so they were more reliable, but I mostly stuck to the list given to us in class.
One of my favourite pieces of evidence was the family portrait sent to me by Malcolm Linfoot. It told me that the family was wealthy enough, and certainly high standing enough in society, to have a proper photo taken. It told me that they wanted to show their wealth more publicly and to show off what they had, particularly as they are all wearing fine clothes. It is useful because it gave me an image of my soldier and his family, and what sort of background he was from. It isn’t particularly reliable, purely because of the purpose for which it was produced for—which is, I think, to show wealth. Also this picture would’ve most likely been publicly displayed, or somewhere obvious that visitors would see it in the home. This leads me to believe that there is a big chance that the background in the photo isn’t the actual background for the photo, as it is very grand, with great columns with carvings in in the background, which I’m sure wouldn’t have been common, if at all actually, in Worthing. I think this is reliable in the sense that it tells you about the family’s importance and also about their wealth, but you can’t really tell much else from it. I think that makes it fairly reliable, but not solid evidence for anything. I think it was produced around 1899-1902, but this is purely because of the age of Wilfrid and the other children. Wilfrid looks about 8, maybe older, which would be within that year bracket. This is a very biased photo, which it obviously would be if it is indeed for the purpose I think that it’s for. It could be edited, to maybe make everyone look better, but I highly doubt this as I don’t think that technology would’ve allowed it. I believe it is the right family because I have another photo of the family, and Joseph Frampton, who is the father, is clearly in it. It is hard to check, as it is not a publicly available photo, I don’t think. However, as the same person is in both of the photos, I am almost completely certain it is the right family, and the boy I think is my soldier is him. There is a chance that this isn’t reliable, but as it is a difficult thing to check, as I think this photo was previously in possession of a descendant of the family. This means I cannot fully rely on the photo, and if I did this project again then I would definitely try and source this photo more directly.
I couldn’t find much on what his regiment would’ve done, as I don’t think it played many if any major parts in any of their battles. Also I couldn’t find any pictures of him, as he didn’t win a medal, and wasn’t really recognised, as he was just a private, so there weren’t any pages or previous research specific to him. Also he didn’t sign up in Worthing, so therefore was not part of the royal Sussex regiment, which we knew how to research as we had been told by the people from Worthing reference library as most would do a person from Worthing. However, several things meant that these problems were solved. I was given Malcolm Linheid’s email and he sent me the photos he had, I then had pictures, and if this had not happened I would have either had to do without photos or switch soldiers. I went on the website the long long trail and that had some information on what the specific division would’ve done, whereas previously I had just been searching what the division had done, just on Google, rather than on a specific website. Again to overcome things such as uniform as nothing came up when searching “what did privates in the royal fusiliers wear”, I used information from various sites and deducted that most privates wore the same thing with one of the only differences being that the regimental badge changed with the regiment. To find the regimental badge, I searched, and picked out the photo that was similar to the variety that people claimed were the thing I was looking for.

I found the project very enjoyable, however I think I probably spent too long presenting first and should’ve done a page at a time. I particularly found it enjoyable because I felt I got to know my soldier, even though he lived just under 100 years ago. I wanted to know more and more about him, especially as he lived just down the road from me. It showed me a lot, and I have developed more ideas on this war specifically. If I got the chance, would definitely do this again, but maybe plan out my time more carefully, and do every last bit of research before presenting it. I would also probably include my own opinions, but make sure that they were separate to the information. I would also refer to my soldier more frequently, as I felt that sometimes I forgot to. Overall I really found this an interesting and engaging project. I have learnt how to check my evidence to see if it’s reliable, using various websites to find reliable information. I have also learnt that it was unnecessary for so many to die, and that if military tactics had changed to the times, many less would’ve died, particularly to the machine gun.
Also that even though most privates weren’t recognised, each and every one of them had a story and a family, and either died or survived in their own way. Just surviving the trenches was a hardship, and each and every person who took place in the war or the war cause deserves to be recognised, not just those who worked their way up the ranks. It also showed me how many lives are wasted in War, and that we really should learn from both world wars, that actually, War is the equivalent of a world disaster.

I found this project quite time consuming and that it was very easy to quickly send a few hours and only get a couple of pages done. However I found it enjoyable, especially to find information out about a man who was very much the average soldier, who I don’t think won any medals. I think if I’d have had a bit more lesson time, I would’ve found the workload much lighter, but that didn’t make the project any less enjoyable.

The evidence I needed was: a picture of him as a soldier, which I unfortunately couldn’t find, because it would’ve just really helped me verify that it was him in the other photos I have of him when he is younger, to check for reliability, and possible told me a bit about his uniform. I would’ve also liked to know exactly what he did in, in much more detail than I already have, for example, what battles in which they were in, what the role of their division was in the battles. This would’ve told me why they disbanded and their main role in the battle that Wilfrid died in. Also it would’ve told me about the importance of the division in the War, and given me a better idea of life in that division, and the sort of thing Wilfrid would’ve done, a better idea of life as part of that division, maybe even as a private. I think the one piece of information I would’ve liked the most was how he died. If it was a back fired grenade, or being hit by one of the many machine gun rounds, or being too close to a member of the enemy. I don’t know how much it would’ve helped the project, but I think it would’ve told me information about how prepared he was for the war, and also about how the battle was going at the time, which would explain why almost all the ground which was first gained by the British, be regained by the Germans. Obviously by that point it was going negatively, but it would tell me exactly how badly, and if the Germans had regained the trenches my division were in.