

**Corporal Fred Booth**  
**(1892 - 26<sup>th</sup> October 1916)**



From Brighouse Echo 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1916

**LIGHTCLIFFE SOLDIER BURIED  
IN DUG-OUT.**

**CORPL. FRED BOOTH KILLED  
IN FRANCE**

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Booth, of No. 7, East View, Lightcliffe, received a communication on Wednesday morning informing them of the death of their son, Corpl. Fred Booth, which occurred somewhere in France, on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. The information was conveyed in a letter which is dated Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, and which was from Second Liet. Clement W. Bromley and reads as follows:-

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Booth, -- I am most sorry to tell you that your son, Corpl. Fred Booth, was killed early this morning. A shell caused the roof of his dug-out to collapse, and buried him. He was at once dug-out, but was dead when discovered. You may take it from me that he knew nothing

as he was probably asleep at the time. It is a great loss to me as an officer and man. Since I have known him since last November he has always been a good and efficient soldier, and one whom I could trust absolutely. I had a very fine section, but since we came to France the old hands have got fewer and fewer, and I feel it a great deal as all my boys seem like children to me. Your son has always been liked and respected by the men and the officers, and he was one of those I could least spare. I have ordered all his papers and personal effects to be brought to me, and I will send them on as soon as possible. With kind regards and my deepest sympathy for your great sorrow.

Corpl. Booth was 24 years of age and was in the West Riding Regt. He enlisted in August of 1914, a few days after the outbreak of war. He went out to the Dardanelles in April of 1915. He has not

since been home. After a few months, he, along with his regiment, were withdrawn from the Dardanelles and sent to Egypt, and in the summer of the present year they were transferred to France, arriving there on the 8<sup>th</sup> July. Corpl. Booth, previous to joining the colours was engaged as an engineer at Messrs, Hopkinsons, Huddersfield, and prior to going there he was employed as a designer at Messrs.

T.F.Firth & Sons, Bailiffe Bridge. He attended Lightcliffe Church and Sunday School, was well known in the district, and his early demise has cut short a promising career.

#### DEATHS

BOOTH, -- Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, aged 24 years, Corpl Fred Booth, 7 East View, Lightcliffe

Somme victim Corporal Fred Booth was the eldest son of Albert Booth and his second wife Elizabeth Booth nee Murgatroyd. In turn Albert Booth was the son of Henry and Hannah Booth whose family story has already been documented and so the brother of the Fred Booth who went to Firthcliffe, America and made his fortune.

Albert Booth married Susannah Murgatroyd in 1883 but she died two years later. She was buried in St Matthew's churchyard on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1885 in plot K61 with the following memorial inscription which as you can see is very difficult to read: -

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
SUSANNAH THE WIFE  
OF ALBERT BOOTH  
OF LIGHTCLIFFE  
WHO DIED AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> 1885  
AGED 29 YEARS.**



Then early in 1891 Albert married Susannah's younger sister Elizabeth Murgatroyd. On census night 1891 Albert, a 34 year old "Machine Fitter", and 24 year old Elizabeth resided in the Ripley Buildings in Lightcliffe. Three children were born before the next census in 1901, namely Fred born in 1892, Doris born on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1894 and Donald born on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1898. By then the family had moved to No. 7, East View, Lightcliffe next door to Albert's widowed mother and unmarried sister (and next door to Robert Brear Brownrigg's family).

Another son George was born in 1902 and so on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911 the, then complete, family looked like this in their 3 roomed house:-

Albert Booth Head 53 Married Mechanic Carpet Looms  
 Elizabeth Booth Wife 43  
 Fred Booth Son 19 Mechanic Carpet Machinery  
 Doris Booth Daughter 17 Tipplist ?? Soap Making  
 Donald Booth Son 12 School  
 George Booth Son 9 School  
 Address 7 East View, Lightcliffe, Nr Halifax

When WW1 broke out Fred Booth enlisted almost straightaway with the West Riding Regiment and then got transferred to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Company of the newly formed Machine Gun Corps. He was killed on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1916 as detailed above. He was buried in France at the Courcelette British Cemetery, Somme on grave I.C.8.

**BOOTH, Cpl. Fred, 39004. 32nd Coy. Machine Gun Corps (Inf.). 26th Oct., 1916. Age. 24. Son of Albert and Elizabeth Booth, of 7, East View, Lightcliffe, Halifax, Yorks. I. C. 18.**

004 CORPORAL	F. BOOTH	MACHINE GUN CORPS (INF.)	26TH OCTOBER 1916	AGE 24	CROSS 1 C 17 71
03357 RIFLEMAN					CROSS 1 C 18 72

1185/1B	72	NOT GOOD-BYE (Mr. Albert Booth, 7, East View, Lightcliffe, Nr. Halifax.)	2-11	10
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The family's "message" NOT GOODBYE as requested on the form above can be clearly seen at the foot of the headstone.



Corporal Fred Booth was also remembered on the Bailiff Bridge memorial having previously worked for Messrs. T.F.Firth & Sons at Bailiffe Bridge. His name appears just above that of his next door neighbour Robert Brear Brownrigg.



He was also remembered in St Matthew's Church and on his family's grave plot K62 in the churchyard. This memorial inscription is just about readable.



**Now read Corporal Fred Booth part 2**

D.M.Barker  
November 2016