

Henry Cecil Franks MC

Henry Cecil Franks was born on the 1st October 1897.

He was educated at Manchester Grammar School, and in 1911 he was aged 13 and living at 1 Gardner Road, Prestwich, with his parents Henry John Franks (55, a law clerk) and Clara Franks (55), and his three elder sisters Amie Beatrice (30, an elementary school teacher), Constance Maud (27, also an elementary school teacher) and Ethel Elizabeth Franks (23, a music teacher).

His military service record is at the National Archives, Kew, Ref WO 374/25562 where the following is taken from:

12.06.1915 - Enrolled in 20 Royal Fusiliers (3rd Public Schools) as a Private.

Next of Kin: Mother, Clara Franks, Hazlewood, Gardner Road, Prestwich.

Can Ride: Yes

Medical Category: C1

Former Occupation: Bank Clerk, and also a theology student prior to war.

Age: 19 years, 3 months (*Note he was actually only 17 and therefore underage*)

Height: 5ft 7 ¼ inches

Girth: 34 inches

Distinctive marks: Mole, left side of chin

Army Form No. 1001

1915

SHORT SERVICE.
(For the Duration of the War).

ATTESTATION OF

No. 12/1838 Name Henry Cecil Franks Corps 20th Bn

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name?	1. <u>Henry Cecil Franks</u>
2. What is your full Address?	2. <u>Hazlewood, Gardner Road, Prestwich, Manchester.</u>
3. Are you a British Subject?	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your Age?	4. <u>19</u> Years, <u>3</u> Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	5. <u>Bank Clerk</u>
6. Are you Married?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which?	7. <u>No</u>
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?	8. <u>Yes</u>
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service?	9. <u>Yes</u>
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you?	10. <u>Yes</u> (Name <u>John L. ...</u>)
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?	11. <u>Yes</u>

For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. If employed with Hospitals, Depots of Mounted Units, and as Cooks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

I, Henry Cecil Franks, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Henry Cecil Franks SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
John L. ... SIGNATURE OF WITNESS.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Henry Cecil Franks, swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and true to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, so in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was questioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly repeated as required, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me on this 12 day of June 1915.

John L. ... Signature of the Justice of the Peace or Attesting Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been completed with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 20th Bn Royal Fusiliers.

If called by special authority, Army Form B. may be either authority for the enlistment will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 12 June 1915. W. Cass Attesting Officer.
Place Manchester Major R. C.

! The signature of the Attesting Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
! Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be retained in his possession until he has, as follows, viz. (name) _____ on the (date) _____.

Application form for 20th Bn Royal Fusiliers, 12 June 1915

14.11.1915 - Embarked to France, Part of 19th Brigade, 33rd Division.

The 20 Royal Fusiliers was part of the 33rd Division which fought in the Battle of Albert, 1-13 July 1916, the battle of Bazentin Ridge 14-17 July 1916, and the attack on High Wood, 20-25 July 1916 which were all offensives in the battle of the Somme. The opening day of the battle on 1 July 1916 saw the British Army suffer the worst one-day combat losses in its history, with nearly 60,000 casualties.

Extract from the War diary of the 20th Royal Fusiliers:

Place	Date	Summary of Events and Information
HIGH WOOD	20.7.1916	19th Brigade attacks at 3.25am on HIGH WOOD. Attack by 1st Cameronians and 5th Scottish Rifles. 20th Royal Fusiliers in support. 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers in reserve. North corner & North west corner of wood not taken. Rest taken and consolidated. 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers came up about 12 noon. A front & support line consolidated across wood from East to West. Held on to position until relieved by 100th brigade at midnight then withdrew to old bivouacking ground at Mametz wood. Casualties, Lt Col Bennett - wounded. Killed: Lt Rawson, Lt Palmer, 2nd Lt Price, 2nd Lt Coventry Missing believed killed: Capt Toller, Lt Wallworth, Lt Evans Wounded: Capt Hollingworth, 2nd Lt Bell, 2nd Lt Cooke, 2nd t Brooke, 2nd Lt Fabricius, 2nd Lt Ives, 2nd Lt Herbert Other Ranks killed, wounded or missing: 375
MAMETZ WOOD	21.7.1916	4pm - Withdrew to Buire sur L'Anire
BUIRE sur L'ANIRE	22nd to 31 st July 1916	Reinforcements received 2 officers and 701 other ranks. Reorganising & Training.



*Memorial cross next to High Wood in memory of the men of the 20th Batt Royal Fusiliers (The Public School Battalion) who were killed on July 20th 1916.
(Photographed in 2016)*

26.07.1916 - Appointed Lt Corporal

26.09.1916 to 5.10.1916 - Leave to England

23.03.1917 - Transferred to England.

07.06.1917 - Proceed to join No 2 OCB (Officer Cadet Battalion), Pembroke College, Cambridge.

25.09.1917 - Discharged from Royal Fusiliers as received a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Military History Summary on discharge from Royal Fusiliers:

France: 12.06.1915 - 13.11.1915

BE Force: 14.11.1915 - 23.03.1917

Home: 24.03.1917 - 25.09.1917

Medals: 1914-15 Star, BW&V Medal

Casualty Form - Active Service.
Regiment or Corps *20th (F.) Bn. Royal Fusiliers*
Regimental No. *829* Rank *Lt Cpl* Name *Franks, Henry Cecil*
Enlisted (a) *June 12/15* Terms of Service (a) *Continued* Service reckons from (a) *June 12/15*
Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank Numerical position on roll of N.C.Os.
Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)
Report
Date From whom received
Place Date Remarks
taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents.
Embarked *14 NOV 1915*
11.8.16 OC in
17-10-16
27-3-17 *2nd Lt (b)* *TRANSFERRED TO ENGLAND*
as candidate for commissions
G.H.Q. 3rd Echelon
- 2 AVR 1917
Depot: *Postest*
Proceeded to join No 2 OCB
Pembroke College Cambridge
No 2 OCB Attached to 2nd Bn
1st Lt. Mother. Clara Franks.
Haydonwood. 1. Gardner Rd. Preston. W. Manchester.
L/Cpl. 23.3.17.
L/Cpl. 7.6.17.
Captain
1/6 Regular Infantry, Section N° 5
1015

Casualty Form – Active Service of Henry Cecil Franks in 20th Bn. Royal Fusiliers

16.10.1917 - London Gazette - appointed Second Lieutenant, Lancashire Fusiliers.

The 18th Lancashire Fusiliers were part of the 35th Division which fought in the Second Battle of Passchendaele, 26 October - 10 November 1917, which was part of the overall battle of Ypres 1917 (Third Ypres).

207857

Army Form B. 103. Regimental Number

Casualty Form - Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 18th (S) BN. LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS

Rank 2nd Lieut Surname FRANKS Christian Name H. C.

Religion Age on Enlistment years months

Enlisted (a) Terms of Service (a) Service reckons from (a)

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b)

or Corps Trade and Rate

Occupation Postal Co. Pk. No. List No. 100 Apr. 11. 1917 Signature of Officer

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 10, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received			
		Embarked ...	10.12.17	
		Disembarked...		
10.12.17	James Battalion	Field	15.12.17 6013	
10.12.17	SW Knee L		16.2.18 607657	
4 GCS	"		16.2.18 7723	
20 GH	"		17.2.18 73034	
"	To England for		5.3.18 73083	
	1st. Nasseaven			

In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, ARMY Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

Casualty Form – Active Service of Henry Cecil Franks in 18th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers

- 10.12-17 - Embarked to France
- 15.12-17 – Joined Battalion in the Field
- 16.02.18 - SW Knee L (Severe wound in the left knee), moved to 107FA and 4GCS.
- 17.02.18 – Moved to 20th General Hospital
- 05.03-18 – To England

The 18th Lancashire Fusiliers were involved in a raid on the 15th February against a concrete enemy post at Turenne Crossing on the outskirts of Houthulst Forest. They formed up astride the Aden House to Turenne Crossing road. Zero was 8.30pm. They got through strong enemy wire with the help of a Bangalore torpedo and killed at least 2 and captured 11 of the garrison. The pill-box attacked is described as lying in the angle formed by the road and the railway. There are 2 shown on maps that might be the objective V1.d.10.23 & V1.d.60.70 The casualties suffered were 1 OR missing and 1 Officer (2nd Lieutenant H. C. Franks) and 12 OR's wounded.

War diary Account of raid:

Place	Date	Summary of Events and Information
EGYPT HOUSE	12-2-18	The Battalion relieved the DLI in front line. One OR killed in action.
PASCAL FARM	13-2-18	Front adjusted to a two Coy front. Quiet.
"	14-2-18	W Coy relieved Z Coy and X Coy relieved Y Coy. Quiet.
"	15-2-18	Three officers and fifty OR raided enemy post at TURENNE Crossing under the command of 2 Lieut Franks and Pt Lerleith. Covering party of 10 OR. Result 11 prisoners including one officer. One OR missing. 2 Lieut Franks and 12 OR wounded. 15 OR

		proceeded on leave to UK.
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OR – Other Ranks (i.e. not officers)

Coy - Company

15.02.1918 - Severely wounded in action, near Ypres.

As a result of the raid he received the Military Cross and the citation in the London Gazette, dated 22nd April 1918, pg 4825, is as follows:

T./2nd Lt. Henry Cecil Franks, Lanc. Fus.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a raid on the enemy posts, although wounded in the knee shortly after leaving the assembly point, he went forward, displaying a fine soldierly spirit, and inspiring his men with confidence. Exposed to heavy shell and machine-gun fire, he showed an entire disregard for his own safety throughout the operation, and remained behind until the entire party had returned.

Map showing location of raid on Turenne Crossing from Aden House on 15th Feb 1915



Locations in 2010:



Looking towards Turenne Crossing from Aden House – Raid start point.



Looking from Turenne Crossing towards Aden House.
The angle formed between the road and the old railway line is described as the location of the German machine gun pill box and the objective of the raid.



Looking North from the Aden House – Turenne Crossing road towards Houthulst wood which the 18 Bn Lancashire Fusiliers attacked on 22nd October 1917 as part of the battle of Pascendale (3rd Ypres).

The following is the account from the War diary:

22.10.17

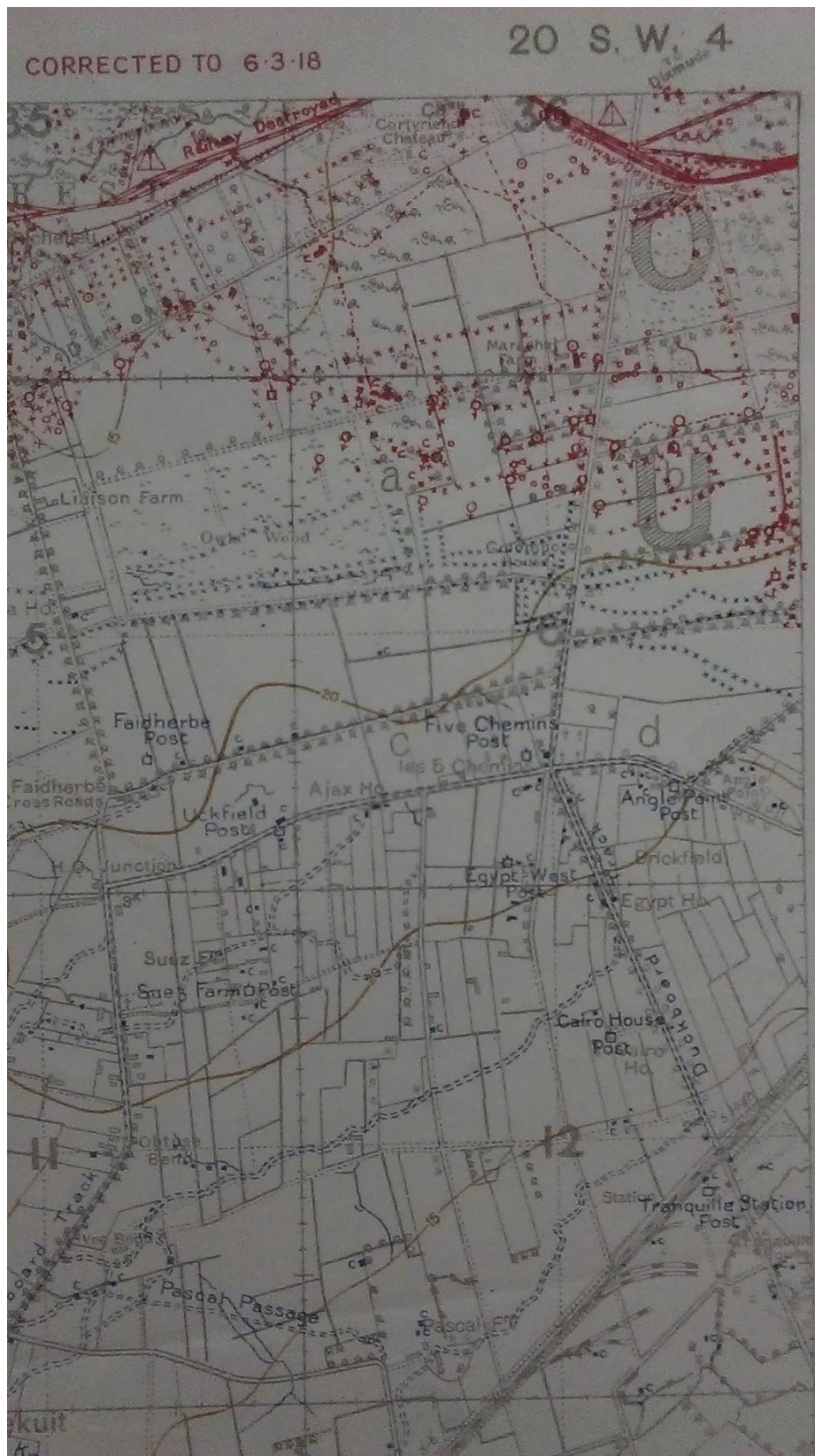
"The battalion formed up immediately south of ANGLE POINT , south of Houthulst Wood at 2.30am in close support to the 23rd Manchester regiment on right, 17th Lancashire Fusiliers on left. Battalion advanced headquarters was at EGYPT HOUSE. Formation: X coy on right, Y coy on left of front line. W in support to X coy, Z in support to Y coy. The attack was delivered in four waves.

At zero hour, 5.30am, The Battalion moved off keeping close to our barrage which was found too slow (8 minutes for 100 yards) and in consequence we suffered several casualties. In addition the barrage was very ragged, one shot in four falling short; this was probably due to the bad gun platforms. Lt PRITCETT and BOWERS were conspicuous in their efforts to keep their men back.

Shortly after the attack started the Manchester regiment suffered very heavy casualties and were held up. Our line continued to advance but owing to its right flank being unprotected began to suffer heavy casualties. At about 6.15am Captain M. R. Wood MC who was in command of the two leading companies realised that he had worked too far over to the left, so moved his own coy (x) back a short way and then over to the right in order to gain touch with the Manchester regiment and also to attack the wood from the south. He failed to gain touch with the Manchester regiment but moved forward to attack the wood under very heavy machine gun and rifle fire from his front and right flank. On approaching the wood Lt TORRANCE saw an active machine gun in front of him. He sent his men round each flank and charged the gun himself capturing the gun and team. X coy entered the wood but having their right flank unprotected and being almost surrounded by the enemy were compelled to withdraw to the outskirts."



Trench Map showing Turenne Crossing. Ref National Archives WO 297/639



Trench Map showing Pascal Farm, Egypt House, Angle Point. Turenne Crossing is just off the map on the right where the road and railway cross as per above map. Ref National Archives WO 297/622



Pascal Farm



Egypt House



Menin Gate, Ypres



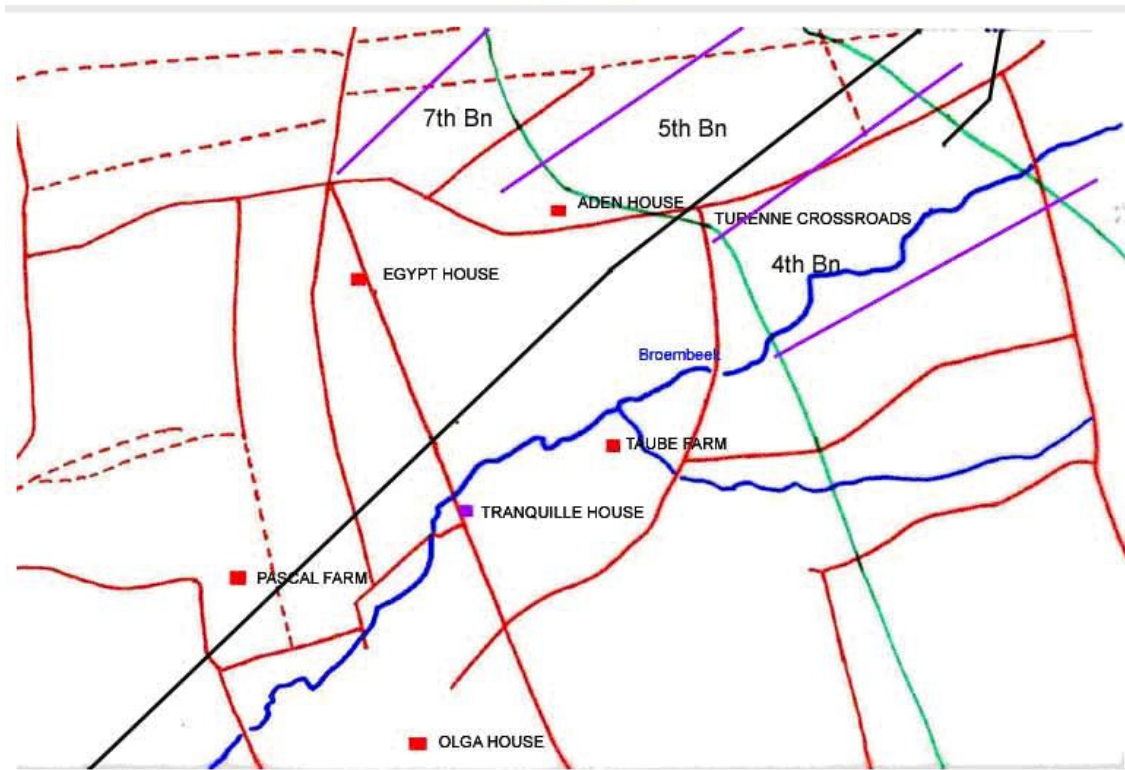
Inside the Menin Gate.



White cliffs of Dover.

Map 1 - 149th Brigade positions

25 Oct 1917



Railway line Roads Streams Battalion Boundaries for attack Start line & Final Objective

05.03.1918 - Hospital, Liverpool

Following is a transcript of a handwritten letter:

Savoy Convalescent Hospital, Blackpool.

To the Secretary, War Office, London

from

2nd Lieut H.C. Franks

18 Bn Lancs Fusiliers.

Sir,

I beg to make application for a wound gratuity, in respect of severe wound received in action on February 11th 1918, near Ypres and with which I am still incapacitated.

I have the honor to be

sir

your obedient servant

H.C. Franks

2nd Lieut

27.6.18

207857

Telephone 902 Telegrams: SAVOY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL

SAVOY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL (K.L.M.C.H.),
BLACKPOOL.

To the Secretary,
War Office, London.

From: 2nd Lieut. H.C. Franks,
18 Bn Lancs Fusiliers.

Sir,

I beg to make application for
a wound gratuity, in respect
of severe wound received in action
on February 11th 1918, near Ypres,
and with which I am still
incapacitated.

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H.C. Franks
2nd Lieut.

27.6.18.

(b) Date of appointment
(c) Rank
(d) Date of retirement, resignation or discharge

2nd Lieut.
1918.
L/Corporal
1918.

He was discharged from the army on 11th June 1919.
Regimental No 20th Royal Fusiliers: 7838
Regimental No 18th Lancashire Fusiliers: PS 7873

While in hospital he met Dorothy Ogden who was a nurse and they married in 1923.



He became a vicar and his parishes included Atherton in Lancashire, Bellingham in Lewisham, Redlynch just north of the New Forest, and Osmington in Dorset.

FRANKS, Henry Cecil.—Coll. of Resurr. Mirfield, 1919. M.C. 1918. d 1923, p 1924 Man. C. of Ringley 1923-24; St. Paul, Preston, 1924-28; Atherton 1928-33; St. John, Southend, Lewisham (in c. of Bellingham), 1933-40; V. of St. Dunstan, Bellingham, 1940-46; Redlynch, Wilts. 1946-52; C-in-c. of Morgan's Vale 1950-52; V. of Osmington w Poxwell, Dio. Sarum, from 1952. *Osmington Vicarage, Weymouth, Dorset.* (Tel. Preston 2202.)

Crockfords Clerical Register, 1953-54



Picture of Mary Bridge (nee Ogden), her sister Dorothy Franks (nee Ogden), and Dorothy's husband. Cecil Franks.



Osmington Parish Church, Dorset

He died on the 15th February 1955 aged 57 in a car accident.

His grave is at Osmington Parish Church.



The epitaph reads:

IN EVER LOVING MEMORY
THE REVEREND
HENRY CECIL FRANKS MC
VICAR OF THIS PARISH
AND RECTOR OF POXWELL
BORN 1ST OCTOBER 1897
DIED 1ST FEBRUARY 1955
UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS
ALSO DOROTHY
BELOVED WIFE OF THE ABOVE
BORN 16TH DECEMBER 1892
DIED 25TH AUGUST 1980



Inside Osmington Church. The brass plaque on the pulpit reads:
 RESTORED IN OCTOBER 1981
 IN MEMORY OF
 THE REV. & MRS H.C.FRANKS

VICARS OF ST OSMUND'S, OSMINGTON			
JOHN de RINGSTEDE	1502	FRANK NEWINGTON	1873
WILLIAM de CHURCHEVILLE	1509	ARTHUR GHICHESTER BURNARD	1876
WILLIAM KING	1542	WILLIAM CHILCOTT	1877
WILLIAM de MEES de STOKE DOILY	1548	JOHN THOMAS VAUDREY	1878
WILLIAM BISHOP	1561	ERIC JAMES BODINGTON	1894
JOHN FORD	1583	FREDERICK CHARLES HAWKINS	1898
THOMAS JORDAN		JOHN FRANCIS JONES	1899
WILLIAM de FORDINGTON	1585	PERCIVALE ARTHUR HIPPLEY SMITH	1913
THOMAS HARRYS	1586	JASPER MEAD	1920
STEPHEN POPE		THOMAS FRANCIS FORTH R.D.	1926
JOHN WHITE	1598	(POXWELL ADDED)	1927
RICHARD	1454	GUY EDWARD SALTER BULLOCK	1937
JOHN DAVEYS	1456	HENRY CECIL FRANKS	1952
JOHN WYLYAM	1471	ARTHUR STEWART DEVONALD EVANS	1956
WILLIAM LONG	1472	JOCELYN LOUIS WOODS R.D.	1958
(RINGSTEAD ADDED)	1488	ASSISTED BY	
PETER VARYN		FREDERICK JACK MEVERTON	
ROBERT SHERARD	1509	KEITH WEDGWOOD	1972
WILLIAM CANNINGS		ROGER PICKERING	1977
GEORGE BLUNDELL	1524	TEAM RECTORS	
EDWARD BROWN	1545	ALAN CHARLES PERRY	1981
WILLIAM HUMERFORD	1546	JOHN WILLIAM HAWTHORNE	1983
WILLIAM HAYTE	1572	JOHN KENDAL COOMBS	1987
RICHARD JOINSON	1588		
EDWARD HAYTE	1594		
JOHN BLAXTON	1622		
RICHARD FILLIOL	1628		
SAMUEL BLAXTON	1662		
JOHN BRADER	1662		
NATHANIEL NAYLOR	1678		
THOMAS POPE	1690		
BENJAMIN BLAXTON	1693		
JAMES FORSTER	1720		
GEORGE SHUTTLEWORTH	1745		
SAMUEL FAWCONER	1777		
CHARLES COATES	1788		
JOHN FISHER	1815		



Lichfield cathedral, a popular Christmas card from Dorothy Franks



The coast from Osmington Mills



References

Military service record: Ref WO 374/25562, National Archives, Kew

Military Cross Web Ref:

<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/issues/30643/supplements/4825>

Battle of Somme:

<http://www.1914-1918.net/bat15.htm>

War diaries at documents online national archives

WO 95/2484

WO 95/2423

1911 Census

20th (Service) Battalion (3rd Public Schools)

Formed at Epsom on 11 September 1914 by the Public Schools and University Mens Force.

26 June 1915 : attached to 98th Brigade, 33rd Division.

Landed in France in November 1915.

27 November 1915 : transferred to 19th Brigade, 33rd Division.

16 February 1918 : disbanded in France.

18th (Service) Battalion (2nd South East Lancashire)

Formed in Bury on 13 January 1915 by Lieut-Col. G. E. Wike and a Committee as a Bantam

Battalion. Moved on 8 April 1915 to Garswood Park (Ashton in Makerfield) and in June 1915 to Masham.

21 June 1915 : attached to 104th Brigade, 35th Division.

Author: William Bridge, August 2010