

## Frederick (Walter) Chidwick (1884 – 1916)

This is a proposal from the History Society's Committee to request that the Parish Council commemorate Frederick Chidwick on the War Memorial on The Green at Shepherdswell.

Frederick Chidwick served as a Private in 6<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) (Service no. G/325). (Document 1). He was killed while serving on the Western Front on 5 March 1916.

Frederick enlisted at a recruitment meeting held at St Andrew's Hall, Shepherdswell on 26 August 1914, a volunteer in what became known as Kitchener's New Army.

**SHEPHERDSWELL.**  
**RECRUITING MEETING.**—A well attended meeting was held at St. Andrew's Hall on Wednesday evening, presided over by Mr. H. E. H. Rice. Stirring and patriotic addresses were given by Captain Hendry, Captain Dallas and the Rev. S. G. H. Sargent, C.F.

*Dover Express, 26 August 1914,*

Aged 30, he gave his occupation as 'collier', though he had until 1913 served 12 years in the Royal Navy. The same day (26 August 1914), a medical examination declared him 'fit for army' (Document 1, below).

Frederick joined 'The Buffs' in Canterbury. After training at Sandling, Tolsford Hill (near Lyminge) and Aldershot, he was posted with his battalion to France on 1 June 1915. He saw action at Ploegsteert Wood, on the Ypres salient (June 1915) and in the Battle of Loos (September 1915) – a battle that saw the first use of chlorine gas as a weapon of war.

On 5 March 1916, the Buffs were sent into the front line during fighting around the Hohenzollern Redoubt – a German position near Loos-en-Gohelle (Pas de Calais). Frederick was killed in action the same day. An account of the fighting describes how men 'sank to their knees in mud and were caught by machine gun fire and German hand grenades as they foundered'.

When Frederick enlisted, he gave his next of kin as Sarah Ann Heyman, who lived at 7 Whittington Terrace, Shepherdswell. Sarah was Frederick's cousin (by marriage). But between his ages of eight and 15, she had acted as Frederick's foster mother – which is the relationship recorded on army documents. (See document 5, below.) Frederick's birth mother, Elizabeth (née Howard) had died in c1891. His father, Walter, died in 1910.

Census returns and Dover Directories indicate that Sarah Heyman lived at Whittington Terrace between 1910 and 1918, along with two of her sons (Ernest and Percy), a daughter and grandchild. Sarah also took in boarders, mostly

miners working in one of the local pits. Her two sons worked as miners. Percy later served with the Royal Engineers during the War.

It seems clear that after leaving the navy in 1913, Frederick lived at 7 Whittington Terrace and worked as a miner. As noted above, he enlisted at the recruitment meeting held in Shepherdswell on 26 August 1914.

The evidence indicates the relationship between Frederick and his foster mother. After Frederick's death, the War Office returned a pressed flower and photograph to Sarah (at Whittington Terrace) and she wrote back to acknowledge them. (Documents 3 & 4, below.) As Frederick's next of kin Sarah also received the 1914-15 Star, a commemorative 'Victory' medal in recognition of his service and sacrifice (Document 2).

Frederick is commemorated on the Loos Memorial (Pas de Calais, France) (pictured).<sup>1</sup> To our knowledge, he is not commemorated on any memorial in this country.



It is our suspicion that the unconventional nature of Frederick's familial relations was a factor behind the neglect of any commemoration of his service and sacrifice during the War. We should take the opportunity to correct this oversight.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/729721/frederick-chidwick/>

# Documents

## Document 1- Attestation at Shepherdswell, August 1914.

Army Form B.

# SHORT SERVICE.

(Three years with the Colours.)

## ATTESTATION OF

No. 325. Name Redd Chidwick. Corps General Service

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? Redd Chidwick
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? Shepherdswell in or near the Town of Shepherdswell in the County of Kent
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes
4. What is your Age? 39 Years 2 Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Soldier
6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years continuously in the same place, or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and in either case, if so, state where? Yes Shepherdswell

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? if so, where? No
8. Are you Married? No
9. Have you ever been sentenced to Imprisonment by the Civil Power? No
10. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what unit and Corps? No
11. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and cause of discharge Yes Royal Navy Discharged Some expired
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? No
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes
15. For what Corps are you willing to be enlisted, or are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? General Service
16. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? Yes { Name Chidwick Corps General Service }
17. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services? Yes

(a) For a term of three years, unless the War lasts longer than three years, in which case you will be retained until the War is over. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, 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. If, however, the war is over in less than three years, you will be discharged with all possible speed.

(b) To be attached to any arm of the Service should such be required of you.

I, Redd Chidwick 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.

SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Signature of Witness.

### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Redd Chidwick swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as 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 abovesigned was cautioned 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 entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Shepherdswell on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 1914.

Signature of the Justice [Signature]

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial it under Section 8 (b), Army Act.

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

Service at Home and Abroad.

COUNTRY	FROM	TO	YEARS	DAYS
British	24-8-14	31-5-15		278
France	1-6-15	5-8-16		279
			1	193

N.B.—The Country only to be shown—it is not necessary to show separately the service at the different stations of the same country. England, Scotland and Ireland to be shown under the general term "Home."  
For mode of computing Service abroad, see King's Regulations.

Army School and other certificates of education ...

3. Passed classes of Instruction ...  
(This includes any authorized class of instruction, e.g., in swimming, climbing, &c.)

4. Campaigns  
(Including Actions)

5. Wounded...

6. Effect of wounds

7. Special instances of gallant conduct and mentions in public despatches

8. Medals, decorations and annuities ...

9. Injuries in or by the Service ...

10. Name and Address of next of kin ...

Initials of Officer making the entry.

No. 24-8-14 to 31-5-15  
FRANCE 1-6-15 to 5-8-16

Name of Medal Class

1914-1915 STAR.  
British War & Victory Medal

Conin Sarah Keyman 7, Whittington Terrace, S.P.  
Shepherdswell  
N° 5 over

Marriage.

(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow, (b) place and date of marriage, (c) name of officiating Minister or Registrar, and (d) names of two witnesses.

(a) (b) (c) (d)

Date of being placed on Married Roll Initials of Officer.

Christian Names Date and Place of Birth Date and Place of Baptism, and Name of officiating Minister



Document 3: War Office letter instructing personal property of deceased to be sent to Sarah Heyman (Shepherdswell)

(S 1 9) W 1325-7152 50,000 5/16 H W V (P 803/1) H 1325

Effects—Form 118A.

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Officer in charge of Infantry Records, Hounslow

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—  
The Secretary,  
War Office,  
Park Buildings,  
St. James's Park,  
London, S.W.,  
and the following number quoted.

WAR OFFICE,  
PARK BUILDINGS,  
ST. JAMES'S PARK,  
LONDON, S.W.,  
19<sup>th</sup> July 1916.

E. 170524 / 1 (Accounts 4.)

Will you please note that any articles of personal property now in your possession or subsequently received by you belonging to the late  
No 325 Private Frederick Gladwick  
should be despatched to:— 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Kent  
Mrs Sarah Ann Heyman Regiment  
4 Whittington Terrace  
Shepherdswell  
M. Dover

Any medals granted to the deceased that are now in your possession or that may hereafter reach you should be forwarded to:—  
the same person

RECORD OFFICE

Assistant Financial Secretary

Document 4

Letter from Sarah Heyman (7 Whittington Terrace) to War Office acknowledging receipt of Frederick's personal effects.

No 7 Whittington Terrace  
Shepherdess Walk London

Sir

Thanking you for letter sent with  
photo and pressed flower received quite  
safe belonging to the late F. Chidwick 325

yours respectfully 6<sup>th</sup> Batt Buffs  
to Kent

Mrs S A Heyman

Document 5

Document (1920) recording Sarah Heyman as Foster Mother – she has now relocated to Folkestone.

**NOTIFICATION RECORD OFFICE**  
7 AUG 1920  
STAINES ROAD

**FLAQUE & SCHOL**  
Serial No. 49  
Army Form W. 5080.

Regiment EAST KENT REG } To be filled in by  
4/325 PCHIDWICK } Officer in Charge of  
deceased } Records.

**STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.**

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier ...		
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births...		
Father of the Soldier ...		
Mother of the Soldier ...		
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood ...	Age
	Half blood ...	
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ...	
	Half blood ...	

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:

	Names of those now living.	Addresses in full.
<u>Foster Mother.</u> Grandparents of the Soldier ...	<u>Sarah Ann Heyman</u>	<u>82 Folkestone Road Dover</u>
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ...		
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ...		

**DECLARATION.**

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees enquired for.

Signature of the Declarant. Sarah Ann Heyman

Relationship to the Soldier. Foster Mother

Address in full. 82 Folkestone Road Dover.

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at Dover this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 1920

Signature of Minister or Magistrate. W B Bull

Qualification Justice of the Peace

Address 3 Elm Tree Dover

ST. W. 5080 (2/1914, 1/20/1917, 2/19, 3/2, 4/11)