



Horace Frank Brown Dredge
Private 7978, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

Horace Frank Brown was born on the 21st March 1890 in St. Marks, Salisbury in 1890, his birth being registered in the June Quarter of that year in the Alderbury Registration District, the illegitimate son of Olivia Caroline Brown.

Olivia Caroline Brown married Harry Dredge in the March Quarter of 1896 registered in the Salisbury Registration District.

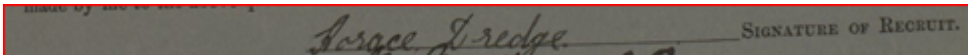
Between 1896 and 1901 Horace added the surname of Dredge to his name.

The 1901 Census records the family at the Cottage, 14 Fairview Road, Milford: Olive Dredge, Head, 29, born in Charlton; Horace Brown Dredge, Son, 10; Dora, Daughter, 4, born in Salisbury; Edith, Daughter, 2; Annie, Infant Daughter. Horace, Edith and Annie recorded as having been born in Wiltshire.

Father Harry is recorded on the 1901 census as a Petty Officer, aged 35, serving aboard HMS Hotspur docked in Bermuda on the night of the census.

In 1902 Horace Dredge was admitted to Bishop Wordsworth Grammar School, Salisbury.

On the 2nd September 1907 he joined the 3rd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment at the age of 17 years 5 months for a period of 6 years as Private 8392. At the time of Attestation he was resident of East Harnham and was working as a clerk. Below his the signature on his attestation papers.



Horace is described as being 5' 6½" tall, weighing 104lbs, with a 32½" chest measurement with a 2" expansion. His complexion was fresh with 3 scars on the centre of his forehead, his eyes were blue and his hair brown. His religion was CofE. He passed his army fitness medical on the 8th September 1907 at Devizes. After initial training he joined his regiment on the 14th October 1907 with a good character reference.

His next of kin is named as his father of East Harnham. Also named is mother, Olive, elder brother Harry (19 years old) and sisters Dora, Edith, Annie and Betsy.

At some point after Harry Dredge was invalided out of the Navy in 1903 the family moved to Dorset.

The 1911 census records the family at Charlton Marshall, Dorset:

Harry Dredge, Head, 45, fellmongers' labourer and Naval Pensioner, born in Chitterne; Olivia Caroline, Wife, 40, born in Charlton All Saints; Dora Olivia Mary, Daughter, 14, born in Castle Street, Salisbury; Annie Florence, Daughter, 10, Scholar, born at 14 Fairview, Salisbury; Betsy Fanny, Daughter, 4, born in East Harnham; John Roland, Son, 2, born in East Harnham

Horace Frank Brown Dredge, aged 20, is recorded in the census at Roundway, Devizes serving with the Wiltshire Regiment stationed at Roundway, Devizes

It is not sure if Horace remained with the army after his 6 years initial enlistment which would have ended in 1913 but at the commencement of WWI would no doubt have been one of the first to re-enlist or be called up for active service.

He was serving with 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment when wounded and evacuated to Zecobes No. 7 Field Ambulance Station, Northern France. Horace died of his wounds on 30th October 1914. At the time of his death his residence was recorded as Norturch, Cheshire

Horace Frank Brown Dredge was originally buried in Vielle Chapelle Churchyard, Northern France as Private 7978 A. Dregger of the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Sadly the village suffered almost complete destruction due to its close proximity to the front lines and the graves of 4 British soldiers buried in the churchyard were destroyed. After the war an order was given for the recovery and reburial of the 4 soldiers, sadly only the wooden crosses were recovered and no bodies found.

A Cross of Remembrance was erected to the 4 soldiers in the Pont-Du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France. The Reference for Horace is Vielle Chapelle Churchyard Memorial 5.

The Special Memorial has the following inscription:

To the memory of these 4 soldiers killed in action 1914-1915, and buried at the time in Vielle Chappelle Churchyard, which were destroyed by the enemy in April 1918.

"Their Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out"

A stone cross names each soldier.



Pont du Hem Military Cemetery