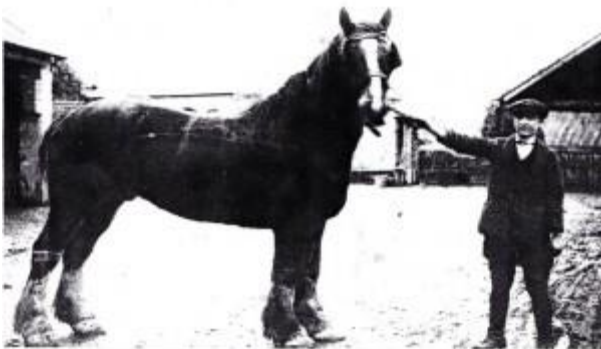


Francis Charles WOOLLEY 1896-1918

- 1911 Occupation Army forms show 2 different jobs: Grocery Shop Assistant and Farm Labourer
- Domicile Shepherds Houses, Cotgrave Place, Cotgrave
- Date of Birth 1896, Whissendine.
- Baptised 25th October 1896 in Pickwell
- Date of Death 23 Oct 1918
- Kin Parents: John Edward and Frances Ruth Wooley, Main Road Cotgrave
- Regiment Kings Royal Rifle Corps
- Enlistment Date 14 November 1914, Nottingham
- Service Number R/7182
- Rank Private, promoted to Corporal
- Medals 1914/15 Star. Victory Medal, British War Medal
- Age at Death 23
- Commemorated Vis-en-Artois Memorial , Panel 9

The name Francis Charles Woolley appears on the Cotgrave War Memorial and the Memorial Board in All Saints Church Cotgrave as well as the Upper Broughton War Memorial. Francis, known as Frank, was the son of John Edward and Frances Ruth Woolley of Main Road Cotgrave. John Woolley was born in Nether Broughton. Frank had 6 siblings: Edith, Fred, Florence, Arthur, John and Doris.



Frank's nephew Roy lives in Cotgrave today (2014) and is the son of Doris. This photograph above was taken at Cotgrave Place, a farm in those days and now the golf club, where Frank's father worked. It is probable that although all Frank's army papers give the address of his family home in Cotgrave, he actually worked and lived in Upper Broughton. Why else does his name appear on our war memorial?

On 14 November 1914 Frank was enlisted into the 2nd Battalion of the Kings Royal Rifles. After basic training Frank joined his Battalion on the Western Front where they had been since they deployed with the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914.

On 19 January 1917 he was wounded in the back and returned to the UK. He spent some time recovering in Woodcote Convalescent Hospital in Epsom and returned to France in July 1917. Frank was originally a Rifleman, but on June 4th, 1918 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and on 22nd July to he became a Corporal. A Corporal is typically the senior non-commissioned rank in charge of a section of an infantry battalion.

He was home on leave between 11th and 25th of September. The Grantham Journal of September 21st recorded that Corporal F Woolley was back in Upper Broughton and looking very well

He returned to France and died on 23rd October 1918 at the battle of the River Selle which started on 17th October 1918 and finished on 25th October. This battle was part of the pursuit of the German forces through Picardy and Artois. He is remembered on the Vis en Artois Memorial as one of the 9000 men who fell during that pursuit and who have no known grave. He had served for 3 years and 344 days.

