

## PRIVATE FREDERICK TAYLOR

32681, 8th Battalion, York & Lancaster Regiment

Died aged 22 on 17 September 1917

Remembered with honour at *Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium*; Panel 125 to 128

Commemorated in Tewkesbury at the Cross



*Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, Belgium*



*York and Lancaster Regiment*

**FREDERICK TAYLOR** was born in Tredington in 1895 to William Taylor and Florence (formerly Harris). William was originally from Worcestershire and Florence from Winchcombe. Frederick was one of eight children, seven of whom were still living at the time of the 1911 Census. On the 1901 Census William's occupation was given as 'Gardener', living at 3 Salter's Hill Cottages, Deerhurst, but on the 1911 Census William and Frederick were described as 'General Farm Labourer' of Claydon, Ashchurch, working for John Hopton of Cowfield Farm. In December 1914 Frederick married Mary Jones and they had two children.

Frederick is honoured by the Abbey as a Volunteer of Tewkesbury. At the time of his death, he was serving in the 8th (Service) Battalion, the York and Lancaster Regiment. However, there is evidence that he had previously served in the Royal Field Artillery although there is no surviving military documentation to shed any light on his earlier service in the RFA.

The 8th (Service) Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment was formed at Pontefract, Yorkshire, in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's 'New Army' and came under the command of the 70th Infantry Brigade in the 23rd Division. The battalion landed at Boulogne on 18 October 1915; it transferred away for a short period but had returned to the 23rd Division by July 1916.

**Private Frederick Taylor** was killed on 17 September 1917 during the *Third Battle of Ypres*, sometimes referred to as *Passchendaele*. In fact

it comprised a series of set-piece battles and Frederick was killed just days before the start of the third phase, the *Battle of the Menin Road Ridge*. This was a particularly successful action. According to their War Diary, the battalion moved into the front-line trenches on 16 September, until they were themselves replaced in the evening of 18 September.

The War Diary records that for the period 16-18 September inclusive the battalion suffered casualties of two Officers and 23 Other Ranks killed and three Officers and 50 Other Ranks wounded. The War Diary does not mention any specific incidents or reasons for the casualties other than a raid by a party of 40 men on the German front-line trenches in the early hours of 18 September, in which one man was killed and three were wounded.

It is likely, therefore, that the casualties, including Frederick Taylor, were incurred as a result of trench warfare, that is to say they were victims of random and unpredictable artillery, mortar or machine-gun fire from the German positions. In this particular situation, however, it was probably quite deliberate; the Germans would have been aware that another assault was imminent and they would have tried to disrupt the preparations.

**Private Frederick Taylor's** body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the *Memorial to the Missing at Tyne Cot Cemetery*. His brother-in-law, **Private John L. Jones** [†], was killed on 23 September 1917 in the same battle but in a different battalion.