

ALFRED HIRD

Alfred Hird was born in 1888 in Dalby where his father Alfred worked as an agricultural labourer. They lived at Dalby Bar, between Dalby House and Dalby Grange.

By 1901 he was living at High Barn, Hagworthingham, attending school. His father Alfred was now a foreman on the farm. By 1911 his father was a farmer and general carter whilst Alfred junior was a joiner. The family were living in Hardings Lane, Partney.

The 1914 Electoral Register shows Alfred as living in Scremby Road, Partney. Alfred's father is shown in the Kelly's Directories for 1913 and 1919 as a farmer.

During the First World War, Alfred served as a sapper in the Royal Engineers (RE's). His Regimental Number was 155142.

The war of 1914-1918 relied on engineering. Without engineers there would have been no supply to the armies, because the RE's maintained the railways, roads, water supply, bridges and transport. RE's also operated the railways and inland waterways.

There would have been no communications, because the RE's maintained the telephones, wireless and other signalling equipment. There would have been little cover for the infantry and no positions for the artillery, because the RE's designed and built the front-line fortifications.

It fell to the technically skilled RE's to develop responses to chemical and underground warfare. And finally, without the RE's the infantry and artillery would have soon been powerless, as they maintained the guns and other weapons. Little wonder that the Royal Engineers grew into a large and complex organisation.

Alfred was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for his First World War service.