

HUMPHREY MADDISON

Humphrey Maddison was born 23rd September 1876 in Hessel, Yorkshire. He was baptised on 19th October 1876 at St Mary's, Hessle.

In 1881 the family were living at Park Avenue, Newlands, Cottingham near Hull. His father gave his occupation as Scripture Reader. Humphrey was living in Partney Hall in 1891 where his father Henry was living on his own means.

Humphrey was very keen to be a professional soldier, enlisting in the Yorkshire Light Infantry at Pontefract on 6th July 1893 when on 16 years old. He gave his age as 18 and served 75 days in the regiment before being discharged on 18th September 1893.

He then enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters on 8th November 1894, aged 18 years and one month. He had previously served in the militia battalion, the 3rd Sherwood Foresters.

He stood 5' 9½" tall, weighed 128lbs and had a 33" chest. He had a fresh complexion, brown eyes and dark brown hair. He had a small scar ½ an inch long above his right eyebrow.

Humphrey started his service in Dublin. On 5th February 1895 he was admitted to hospital for 10 days suffering from chilblains. On Christmas Eve 1896 he was posted to the East Indies where he stayed for almost two years. On 8th November 1897 Humphrey was admitted to hospital suffering from 'Ague'. He remained there for a week. Three weeks later, he was again admitted to hospital for almost a month suffering from dysentery. On 4th November 1898 he was posted to Malta for 4 months before travelling to Cyprus for 9 months.

On 21st November 1899 he was posted to South Africa where he stayed for almost 3 years before returning home on 27th October 1902. He fought in various campaigns and was awarded both the Queens South Africa Medal with clasp and the Kings South Africa Medal with two clasps.

He signed on again in Singapore on 3rd November 1904. He remained there until 11th December 1906 before a posting to India for almost 6 years. On 1st August 1910 he was found to be suffering from 'Debility' that required a 3 week stay in hospital.

On the night of the 1911 Census, 2nd April, Humphrey was on leave staying with his mother at Partney Hall. His battalion were stationed at Gough Barracks, Trimulgherry, Deccan, India.

He returned home again on 22nd October 1912 for treatment on an abscess in Devonport Hospital. Humphrey remained with the colours until his discharge on 11th February 1913.

On 21st August 1914 Humphrey was called up for service in the Great War. He was now 37 years and 334 days old. In the 20 years since first enlisting he had grown ½" but weighed 1lb less. His chest was now 4" greater, at 37". He was deemed fit for the army reserve.

On 6th March 1915 he was posted to France.

A transfer to the Labour Corps was made on 12th April 1918. He was discharged on 21st March 1919 and awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1915 Star.