

# John Douglas FRITH



Born: 1884

Died: 6 May 1917

*AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE  
died at Bullecourt 1917*



Paul R. Speakman 2021

## John Douglas FRITH



*Sacred to the Memory of*  
**JOHN DOUGLAS**  
*eldest son of*  
**EDWARD & MARION FRITH, of Worsley,**  
*who fought with the Commonwealth*  
*forces and gave his life at the*  
*Battle of Bullicourt May 6<sup>th</sup> 1917*  
*Aged 33 years*  
*'A gallant soldier and a loving son'*  
*Also **HECTOR** their youngest son*  
*Born September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1903, entered*  
*the richer life October 16<sup>th</sup> 1915*  
*'Death is swallowed up in victory'*

This stone stands in plot N.P. 764. The grave only contains one body, that of the youngest son of Edward and Marion Frith. The memorial, however, relates to their son who was killed in World War I, but who was buried in France.

He was born December **1884** at his father's farm, The Hollins, Antrobus, Cheshire. His parents were Edward Frith and Marion Helen Frith (nee Douglas). He attended school in Worsley. He served with the Anzacs in the Great War and was killed in battle at Bullecourt, France - May 5, **1917**. Three of his brothers served in the war and survived. They were Joseph, Edward and Robert.

**1891** census: School House, Weston, Cheshire.

Edward Frith	Head	M	36	General Labourer	b. Antrobus, Ches.
Marion	Wife	M	26		b. Scotland
<b>John D.</b>	Son		7	Scholar	b. Antrobus
Marion R.	Daur.		5	Scholar	b. Antrobus
Joseph H.	Son		2		b. Western Point
Robert Cookson	Lodger	S	26	School Master	b. Timperley

**1901** census: 47 Parrin Lane, Eccles.

Edward Frith	Head	M	46		
Marion Helen	Wife	M	37		
<b>John Douglas</b>	Son	S	17	Mason	
Marion B.	Daur.		15		
Joseph H.	Son		12		
Edward	Son		10		b. Western Point
Jessie Mary	Daur.		8		b. Western Point
Louisa	Son		5		b. Eccles
Andrew	Son		1		b. Eccles

**1911** census: Boundary Cottage, Barton Road, Worsley. (6 rooms)

Edward Frith	Head	M	57	
Marion H.	Wife	M	46	(10 children, 9 alive)

There were 8 of their children still at home, but John Douglas was not there. This is curious since the census was taken on 2 April 1911.

**1914:** 11 April

Departed from Liverpool, bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia, on board the *Alsatian* of the Allan Line.

**1917:** died 5 May. Buried at Villers-Bretonneux, Département de la Somme, Picardie, France.

John Douglas Frith served with the 4th Battalion Australian Infantry A. I. F., and according to the CWGC he died on 5 May 1917. He had attained the rank of Corporal. The village is 16 kilometres east of Amiens.

Villers-Bretonneux became famous in **1918**, when the German advance on Amiens ended in the capture of the village by their tanks and infantry on 23 April. On the following day, the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, with units of the 8th and 18th Divisions, recaptured the whole of the village and on 8 August 1918, the 2nd and 5th Australian Divisions advanced from its eastern outskirts in the Battle of Amiens.

The memorial is the Australian National Memorial erected to commemorate all Australian soldiers who fought in France and Belgium during the First World War, to their dead, and especially to name those of the dead whose graves are not known. There are over 10,000 Australian servicemen commemorated on this memorial.

The two Battles of Bullecourt occurred in April and May **1917**. In the first engagement, on 11 April, by the end of the day, the horrific losses became apparent: the Australian 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade had lost 2,229 soldiers out of 3,000 and 1,170 Australians had been taken prisoner; all the battalions had been put out of action. The Second Battle of Bullecourt began at 3.45 a.m. on 3 May and fighting continued until 15 May. The Second Battle of Bullecourt inflicted 7,000 more losses on the Australians with very little to show for the effort except for the capture of a minute portion of the Hindenburg Line. [There is much more information available online].

Burial: 20 October **1915** St Mark, Worsley, Lancashire, England

Hector Frith

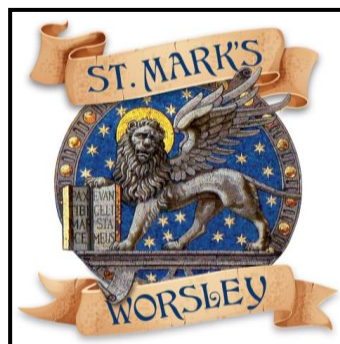
Age: 13

Abode: Boundary Cottage, Barton Rd. Worsley

Grave: 764 N.P.

Buried by: Thos. Ellis

By **1921**, some of the family had emigrated to Victoria, British Columbia, where both Edward died (on 25 January 1929) and Marion (on 24 March 1949). Marion Helen (Douglas) was his second wife. Edward was buried at Royal Oak Burial Park Cemetery, B. C.





24593

AUSTRALIAN



MILITARY FORCES.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

7th, Reinforce  
19th, Battalion.

## Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

No. 3096

224593

Name FRITH John Douglas  
Unit 7<sup>th</sup> of 1915  
Joined on 19 Sept 1915

### Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- 1. What is your Name? John Douglas Frith
- 2. In the Parish of Manchester in or near the Town of Lancashire in the County of England
- 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) Yes
- 4. What is your age? 20 years two months
- 5. What is your trade or calling? Stone-cutter
- 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? App<sup>d</sup> 4 years with H. Brook. Sarfere
- 7. Are you married? No
- 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) Mother, Marian Rankin, Bowdler, Leith, North, West Manchester, Eng'd
- 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? No
- 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? No
- 11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge No
- 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? Yes
- 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? No
- 14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day? Yes
- 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? Yes

I, John Douglas Frith do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

\*And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife three-fifths

Date September 20 - 1915  
wife and children

J. D. Frith  
Signature of person enlisted.

\*This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.