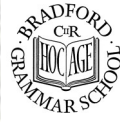


# WILLIAM AFFLECK FROOD



10th July 1916

1895-1916 Age 21

## Private 403363/586 1st/2nd West Riding Field Ambulance (Territorial Force), R.A.M.C.

William Affleck Frood was born in Bradford in the early part of 1895, one of two children of William Frood and Elizabeth Mackay. His mother came from Edinburgh, and although his father was born in Bradford, he too was from a Scottish family. The Froods were drapers, dealers in cloth for making clothing. The business in England was started by William Affleck's grandfather, another William, who moved to Bradford in the 1850s. His three sons William, Bryce and Andrew subsequently continued the business. The younger William was described as a 'draper and clothier' (1901) and a 'draper and tailor' in 1911, and in 1912 as a 'travelling draper'. The premises were at 25, Lumb Lane near Bradford centre, and William and Bryce lived close to the shop. In 1915, William joined the Victoria Lodge of the Freemasons. Bryce's son Robert would continue the business into the second half of the twentieth century.

William Affleck Frood started at Bradford Grammar School in 1903 when he was eight. He was a promising scholar who was twice awarded second place for the form prize. In his last year he came fourth overall in Form Second Lower, and was first in Maths and Geography. Six pupils with whom he shared a form would die in the war. When he left Bradford Grammar in July 1906, William Frood was only eleven. He seems to have completed his secondary education at Grange Road Secondary School, in Great Horton. Two students from Southfield School, the modern successor, made a pilgrimage to the Thiepval Memorial in 2014 to view his name.

What William Affleck Frood did after school we can only speculate—it would seem likely that he worked with his father and his uncles. When war came in 1914, William was nineteen. He seems to have enlisted together with his cousin, George Bryce Frood, for they were both in the 1st/2nd West Riding Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, as privates and with similar service numbers (586 and



546 respectively). This was a Territorial Army unit (not a vehicle), part of the 49th West Riding Division, which went to the Western Front in April 1915 and spent the second half of the year heavily engaged in the Ypres Salient. George Frood, however, transferred to the Royal Engineers, and was then commissioned into the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment.

The circumstances of William's death cannot be established now. The 49th Division was in the Thiepval sector in the aftermath of the opening of the Somme offensive, but the 2nd West Riding Field Ambulance war diary is missing for July 1916. Stretcher bearers from a Field Ambulance were responsible for evacuating casualties from Regimental Aid Posts only a few hundred yards from the front line, so were exposed to danger. Of the records relating to Frood, one states he was 'Killed in Action', and another states 'Death presumed'. These suggest that he was killed by enemy fire. Another private in the same unit, Albert Pashley from Sheffield, was killed on the same day, perhaps at the same time.

Neither man's body was identified for burial, so they are both recorded on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. William Frood is also remembered on two school war memorials. His cousin George survived the war and became an analytical chemist. William was unmarried.



### Acknowledgements:

There is no photo of Frood in the O.B.A. Roll of Honour—this photo is taken from the Southfield School Newsletter Christmas 2014. It is noteworthy that another man on it, Norman Waddilove, also attended B.G.S. (1911-14). He died on 1st July 1916. His family lived at 3, Easby Road in 1911. The Frood family research was carried out using Ancestry.com. The 1st/2nd West Riding Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. War Diary is also available through Ancestry. For the role of a field ambulance, see <http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/a-soldiers-life-1914-1918/the-evacuation-chain-for-wounded-and-sick-soldiers/field-ambulances-in-the-first-world-war/>. Frood's entry in *Soldiers Died in the Great War* states he was killed in action. The *Register of Soldiers' Effects* states he was 'Presumed dead'. Taken together this suggests he was near the front, collecting casualties or treating them. Frood's medals recently came up for sale. This is the description given on <http://www.auction-net.co.uk/viewAuction.php?id=1879&offset=100> (18-6-2014 auction): *WWI 1914-15 trio and Masonic Great War Project Hall Stone silver commemorative jewel to 586 Pte W.A. Frood R.A.M.C. (Bro W. Frood No 4223 on Masonic) good very fine. William Affleck Frood was killed in action with 1st/2nd West Riding Field Ambulance on 10th July 1916 and with no known grave is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. With copied MIC, CWGC, Soldiers Died, entered France 15/4/15, CWGC and Soldiers Died list as 403363, while this number is not listed on MIC, his MIC does state Died 10/7/16, from Bradford. (R) £120.* As far as I can ascertain, it was his father who became a Mason rather than William Affleck Frood.

This biography was compiled and composed by Nick Hooper, July 2016 (Nhooper1956@googlemail.com).