

# FREDERICK ALLAN RAISTRICK



**16th November 1918**

**1896-1918 Aged 21**

## **Lieutenant, attached 7th (Service) Battalion Leicestershire Regiment.**

Frederick Allan was the eldest of four children of Edwin Walter Raistrick and Mary (nee Davison) who married in 1896. Edwin was the son of a woollen waste merchant, but he became a school master employed by the City Council and lived his whole life in Idle. At some point Frederick decided he would be called by his second name, by which he will henceforth be known. He started at the Bradford Grammar School in September 1908 at the same time as his younger brother Edgar Vincent Raistrick. Although Edgar was two years younger than Allan, they were both in the same forms for three years, commencing with Third Classical Lower. However, after a poor year, in 1911-12 Allan repeated Fourth Classical while his younger brother went through to Fifth Classical. Allan left in the summer of 1912 to work for a J. Wood & Sons, of Bentley Street Bradford, perhaps to be identified with Joseph Wood & Co. stuff merchants. When the war began he was eager to serve, enlisting on 29th August 1914 days after the Battle of Mons, although he was not yet eighteen.

Allan was described as 'a very promising recruit' to the 8th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment which was formed at Pontefract. Despite his youth and inexperience he was promoted to Lance Corporal after only three months, then Corporal, and within a year he was made Acting Sergeant. He went to France on 27th August 1915 when he was still below the age to serve overseas, which may have contributed to his employment at the base as an instructor in bomb throwing. In October he was marked out for a commission and on 8th November he proceeded to the Officer Training School at Bedford, subsequently serving with a reserve battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment. Allan spent a quiet 1916 serving in the U.K. and it was not until late January 1917 that he was attached to 7th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment and proceeded to France. This was the same battalion in which another Old Bradfordian, Captain Arthur Aubrey



Clarke, was serving. Allan was his younger contemporary at school.

There is no record of when Raistrick joined 7th Leicesters in the field, although it is known that he was home on leave in August. Clarke was killed on 1st or 2nd October 1917 during a strong German counter-attack near Polygon Wood in the Ypres Salient. On the afternoon of 5th October the remnant of the battalion moved up to a support line, which consisted of consolidated shell holes, while under intermittent shelling. Raistrick was severely wounded and was evacuated to hospital in Rouen, then to Manchester and finally to Ashover in Derbyshire. However, he was too badly injured ever to return to duty. In August 1918 he was discharged to his parents' home. In September, he received the honorary rank of Captain and on 2nd October he was discharged from the army. He died at home from his injuries on 16th November and was buried at Idle Upper Chapel (Congregational). His family had been strong supporters of the war effort. Allan's younger brother was commissioned in 1917, although it appears he did not serve overseas. Their father was too old to serve abroad, but he did his bit as a Sergeant in the Bradford City Volunteers, a home defence force.

Old Bradfordians—'We will remember them'



### Acknowledgements:

This photo is from the School memorial book courtesy of the O.B.A. and B.G.S. The family was researched using Ancestry.com. His years at B.G.S. are recorded in the Annual Reports for 1908-9 to 1912. *The Bradfordian* reported his death of wounds aged 21 in 1919.

The main source for Allan Raistrick's life is newspaper reports: *ShIPLEY Times & Express* 21.1.1915, 29.10.1915, 5.11.1915, 19.10.1917, and *Leicester Journal* 26.1.1917. The Shipley accounts were used for <<http://www.shipleyww1.org.uk/mws%20raistrick,%20allan.htm>> accessed 13.11.2018, where further photos are included. The suggestion that he used Allan to differentiate him from his father seems unnecessary—the latter was Edwin not Frederick. There is no record of an Officer File for Allan in T.N.A., but the two Medal Index Cards (for Frederick Allan and Allan Raistrick) fill in some dates, as does the Silver War Badge record. <<https://www.royalleicestershireregiment.org.uk/entity/116001-raistrick-frederick-allan?q=>> accessed 15.11.2018 is the source for the honorary rank of Captain. That Allan served with 8th York & Lancaster is a deduction from the date he first went to France—this was the only battalion to cross on 27th August 1915. The War Diary for 7th Leicester is T.N.A. Piece 2164/2: 7 Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (1916 Jul - 1919 Apr), read through Ancestry.com. It usually records the arrival of officer reinforcements at the end of each month during 1917, but Raistrick does not seem to be mentioned until the entry for his death.

This biography was researched and composed by Nick Hooper in November 2018. For further information, contact [Nhooper1956@gmail.com](mailto:Nhooper1956@gmail.com), or see <<http://www.bradfordgrammar.com/former-pupils/bradford-grammar-school-in-ww1/>>.