

# Jim Oldroyd



**Rank: Private** 

### Killed in Action: 24th August 1916 (France & Flanders)

### 7th Company, Infantry - Machine gun corps.



### Summary

Jim Oldroyd's family home was Chapel Hill, Upper Hopton where he was raised by his parents George and Clara Oldroyd.

His ocupation was as a miner (Pit Hurrier).

Jim was killed in action in August 1916 (age 20) whilst serving on the Western Front with the Machine Gun Corps.

Jim is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial in France.



# Jim Oldroyd

### Family details

Date of Birth	19th December 1895
Date of Baptism	12th April 1896
Church Baptised	St John's, Upper Hopton
Father	George
Father's occupation	Maltster's labourer (1911) later Railway worker
Mother	Clara
Siblings	Louisa, John, Joe, Bessie
Parents residence	Chapel Hill, Upper Hopton (1911) Later moved to Trinity Street, Mirfield
Soldiers residence	As above
Soldiers Occupation	Miner - Pit Hurrier below ground
Married	
Spouse	
Children	
Burial / Memorial	Thiepval Memorial - Pier and Face 5C & 12C, Dept. de la Somme, Picardie, France
Age at death	21



# Jim Oldroyd

#### Oldroyd family 1911 Census

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#### Jim's family history

Jim Olroyd's grandparents, Jim and Zilpha, ran Elmwood Farm in Upper Hopton and died in 1903 and 1904 respectively leaving their daughter Mary to run the farm with her brother Thomas Oldroyd who was mentally retarded. Mary supplemented her income weaving. Her sister was also disabled so it must have been an uphill struggle.

Jim's father George left the family farm to find other employment, maltster's labourer and later a railway worker.

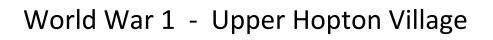
(Before Jim's grandparents James and Zilpha lived at Elmwood farm their home was 109 Hopton Fold, where they lived with their seven children George, Thomas, John Herbert, Elizabeth, Lee, Lewis and Mary).



# Jim Oldroyd

Jim lived on Chapel Hill (The cottages were later demolished in the 1930's)







# Jim Oldroyd

### **Military Details**

Attestation / Enlistment	22nd August 1915
Deployment	Transferred from the West Riding Reg't. on the 20 May 1916 to the Machine Gun Corps. Arrived in France 24th July 1916
Rank	Private
Medals	British War Medal Victory Medal
Regiment number	42010 (Formerly 4485 5th Bn. West Riding Reg't)
Regiment	7th Company Machine gun Corps. (formerly Territorial Force - 5th Bn West Riding Reg't - W R Drill Cycle)
Regimental Badge	



Killed in Action

Age at death

Cemetery or Memorial

24th August 1916

Thiepval Memorial - Pier and Face 5C & 12C, Dept. de la Somme, Picardie, France 21



# Jim Oldroyd

### Jim's service history

4485 Pte Jim Oldroyd joined the 5th Battalion West Riding Regiment, Territorial Force on 22 August 1915, aged 19 yrs 9 months.He was discharged on 20 May 1916, after total service of 273 days.Reason for discharge was Enlistment into the Machine Gun Corps.

42010 Pte Jim Oldroyd enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Company Machine Gun Corps on 21 May 1916, aged 20 yrs 150 days.

He embarked from Folkstone on 23 July 1916, arriving Boulogne 24 July 1916 and going directly to Camiers, Base Depot of the Machine Gun Corps.

#### Within a month of landing in France he would be Killed in Action.

He joined 7 Company in the Field on 4 August. Believe this to be in the Somme area.

The Operating Commander of 7<sup>th</sup> Company posted him 'Missing' on 25 August 1916.

On the 28 Feb 1917 he was officially declared Killed in Action (Buried). Date of Casualty: 24 August 1916.

Jim was commemorated at Thiepval Memorial.

On 15 March 1922 George Oldroyd took receipt of his son's medals - the British War medal and the Victory medal.



# Jim Oldroyd

#### Machine Gun Corps

A year of warfare on the Western Front proved that, to be fully effective, machine guns must be used in larger units and crewed by specially trained men. To achieve this, the Machine Gun Corps was formed in October 1915 with Infantry, Cavalry and Motor branches, followed in 1916 by the Heavy Branch. The Heavy Section was formed in March 1916, becoming the Heavy Branch in November of that year. Men of this branch crewed the first tanks in action at Flers, during the Battle of the Somme in September 1916. In July 1917 the Heavy Branch separated from the MGC to become the Tank Corps, later called the Royal Tank Regiment.



British Vickers machine gun crew wearing PH-type anti-gas helmets. Near Ovillers during the Battle of the Somme, July 1916. The gunner is wearing a padded waistcoat, enabling him to carry the machine gun barrel. IWM photograph Q3995, with permission. Note that the left hand soldier has an MGC badge on his shoulder.



## Jim Oldroyd

### **Military Record - Statement of Services**

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## Jim Oldroyd

Accompanying document for Jim's Plaque & Scroll

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## Jim Oldroyd

### Statement from the Army recognising Jim's close relatives.

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3	of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
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# Jim Oldroyd

**Medal Card** 

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# Jim Oldroyd

Jim's Medals



**British War Medal** 



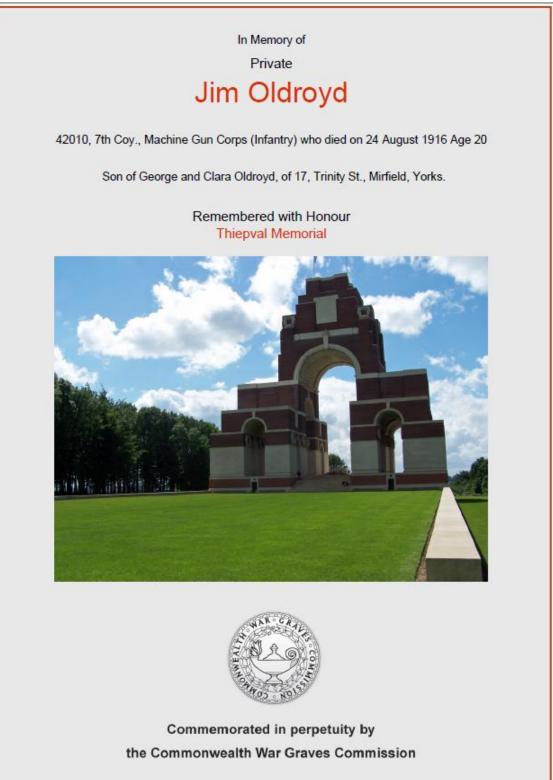
**Victory Medal** 

Receipt below for Jim's war medals signed for by his father George. (Victory & British War medals)

349510. I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the granted in respect of the service of No. 42.010. 2016. Jun Oldroyd. No. 8.6. Date 18 March 1922 M& Glo. Oldroyd. Signature George Oldroyd Ininkit Sheet. Station Road. Monsield



## Jim Oldroyd

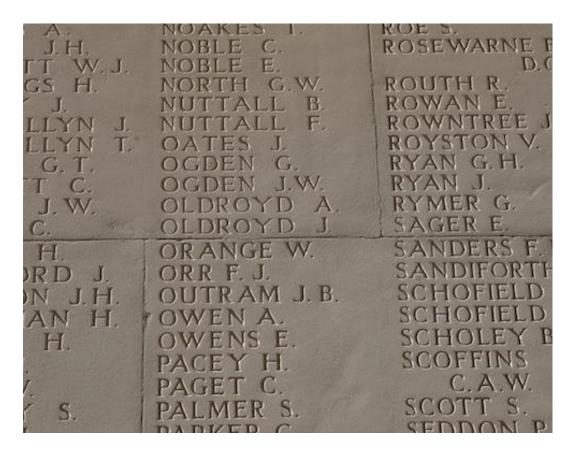




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### **Thiepval Memorial**

The Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme battlefields bears the names of 72,194 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces. These men died in the Somme battle sector before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. The date of 20th March was the day before the German Army launched a large-scale offensive, codenamed "Operation Michael", against the British Army Front in the sector of the Somme. Over 90 percent of those commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial died in the 1916 Battles of the Somme between July and November 1916.



Jim's inscription on the Thiepval memorial (photo taken by P Tolson 2014)



# Jim Oldroyd

Family gravestone St John's Churchyard Upper Hopton

