

## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# 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 occupation 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.

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## 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

## Oldroyd family 1911 Census

## Jim's family history

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

Page 3 of 15



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Jim Oldroyd

**Jim lived on Chapel Hill**

**(The cottages were later demolished in the 1930's)**




# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## 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	24th August 1916
Cemetery or Memorial	Thiepval Memorial - Pier and Face 5C & 12C, Dept. de la Somme, Picardie, France
Age at death	21

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## 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.

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## 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.



## Military Record - Statement of Services

Page 8 of 15



# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Jim Oldroyd

### Accompanying document for Jim's Plaque & Scroll

From Office of Records  
Machine Gun Corps  
91 York St. London

To Mr. G. Oldroyd  
Station Road  
Morpfield  
W. Dorset

O.H.M.S.  
The Officer in Charge of Records  
Machine Gun Corps  
91 York St.  
Westminster

INSTRUCTIONS.  
To return, fold so that flap marked (3) is on top, and then place flap marked (1) inside it.

In order that I may be enabled to dispose of the plaque and scroll in commemoration of the soldier named overleaf in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty the King, I have to request that the requisite information regarding the soldier's relatives now living may be furnished on the form overleaf in strict accordance with the instructions printed thereon.

The declaration thereon should be signed in your own handwriting and the form should be returned to me when certified by a Minister or Magistrate.

W. H. D. D. D.  
Officer in Charge of Records

Morpfield  
O.H.M.S.  
MAY 17 1919  
To Mr. G. Oldroyd  
Station Road  
Morpfield  
W. Dorset  
408-943

# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Jim Oldroyd

Statement from the Army recognising Jim's close relatives.

443 02/5/68

Regiment **MACHINE GUN CORPS** *12010 Pte J Oldroyd* deceased

Army Form W. 5080.  
To be filled in by Officer in Charge of Records.

**STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.**

NOTE.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree required for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier ...	none	
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births...	none	
Father of the Soldier ...	<i>George Oldroyd</i>	<i>Trinity Street, Mansfield</i>
Mother of the Soldier ...	<i>Clara Oldroyd</i>	<i>Trinity Street, Mansfield</i>
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood ... <i>John Oldroyd 16</i>	<i>Trinity Street, Mansfield</i>
	<i>Joe Oldroyd 14</i>	<i>Trinity Street, Mansfield</i>
	Half blood ...	
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ... <i>Louisa Oldroyd 21</i>	<i>Trinity Street, Mansfield</i>
	<i>Bessie Oldroyd 11</i>	<i>Trinity Street, Mansfield</i>
	Half blood ...	
	none	

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:

	Names of those now living.	Addresses in full.
Grandparents of the Soldier ...		
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ...		
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ...		

**DECLARATION.**

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees required for.

*Clara Oldroyd* Signature of the Declarant.

Relationship to the Soldier: *Mother*

Address in full: *Trinity Street, Mansfield*

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at *8th April 1919* this *8th* day of *April* 1919

Signature of Minister or Magistrate: *Harry Fletcher* Qualification: *Police Sergeant*

Address: *Trinity Street, Mansfield*

5027. W. 5311 121911. 1,000,000. 219. S.O.F.B.4





# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Jim Oldroyd

### Jim's Medals

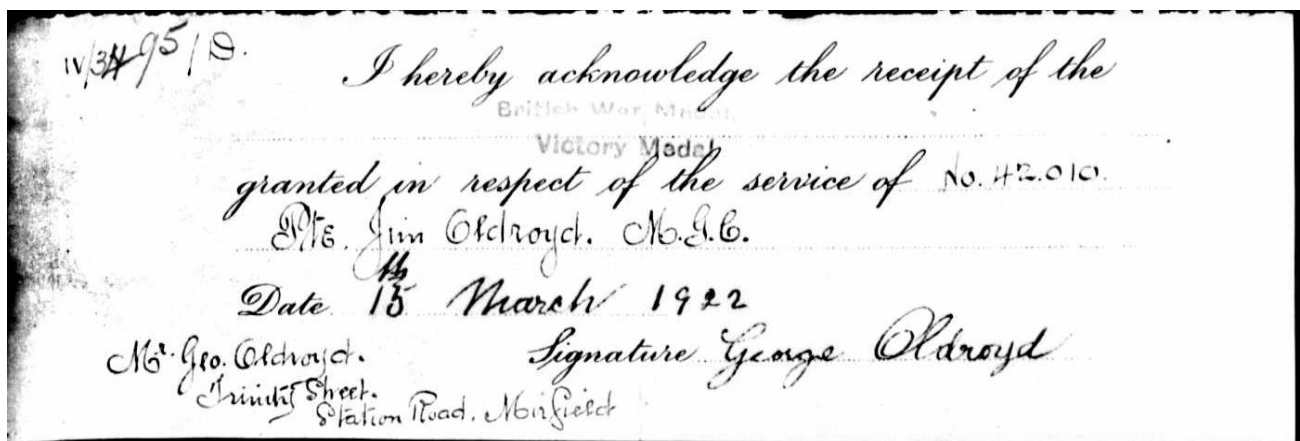


British War Medal



Victory Medal

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





# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Jim Oldroyd

In Memory of  
Private

**Jim Oldroyd**

42010, 7th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died on 24 August 1916 Age 20

Son of George and Clara Oldroyd, of 17, Trinity St., Mirfield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour  
**Thiepval Memorial**



Commemorated in perpetuity by  
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

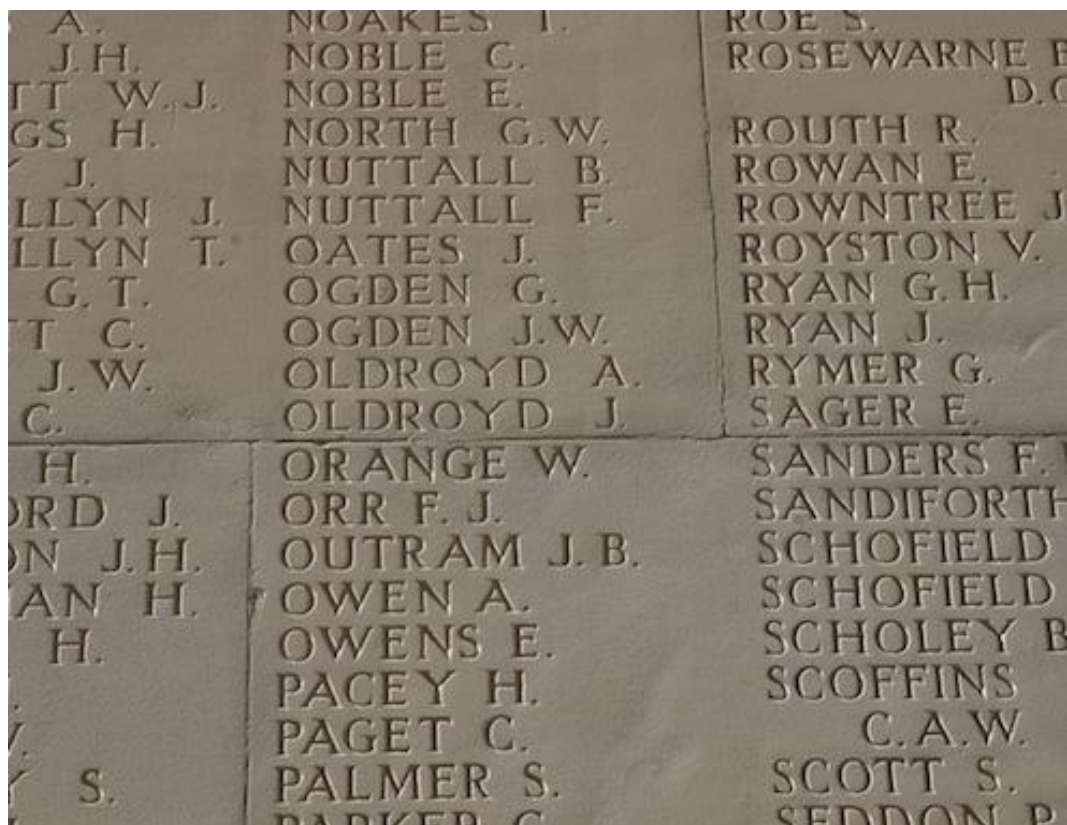
# World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



## Jim Oldroyd

### 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)



## World War 1 - Upper Hopton Village



# Jim Oldroyd

Family gravestone St John's Churchyard Upper Hopton

