



PRIVATE JESSE FERGUSON

SERVICE NO. MI/08188

3RD MOTOR AMBULANCE CONVOY, ARMY SERVICE CORPS

DIED 29TH MAY 1917 AGED 36

Jesse Ferguson was born in Odiham on 4 June 1881¹. He was the second son of Edmund, a carman, and Lucy, a charwoman. On 26 March 1888. Jesse was admitted to London Road Board School and from the School Admissions Register we learn that his mother, Lucy, was now a widow and the family (mother, sister Elizabeth, a domestic servant, and Jesse²) was living in Colt Hill, Odiham³. He attended the school until 12th April 1894, when he left to start work. On 24 September 1904 Jesse married Edith May in Ruscombe, Berkshire. Witnesses at the wedding were Henry Porter and Jessie May⁴. By 1911 Jesse, a domestic gardener, and Edith were living in South Godstone, Surrey⁵. Around the turn of the century Jesse had spent four years in the First Volunteer Battalion, Hampshire Regiment⁶. Before the war "he had been for seven years motor driving in the Guildford district"⁷.

On 27 October 1914 at the age of 33 Jesse enlisted in London and became an ambulance driver in the 3rd Battalion, the Army Service Corps, operating within the Western European Theatre of War. Sadly, on 29 May 1917 Jesse was accidentally killed by a shell⁸.

Jesse was awarded the 1914 Star, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal⁹. He is buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Nord-Pas-de Calais. A War Gratuity of £9.00 was awarded to his mother, Lucy Porter, and of £3.00 to his sister, Elizabeth Hoare, on 27 August 1919¹⁰.

¹ London Road Board School Admissions & Withdrawals Register

² 1891 Census, Odiham, ref. RG12. Piece No. 953, Folio 47, page 22

³ London Road Board School Admissions & Withdrawals Register

⁴ New Soldier's Record, British Army WW1 Service Records, 1914-1920, Ancestry.co.uk

⁵ 1911 Census South Godstone, ref. Class: RG14; Piece: 3253; Schedule Number: 139

⁶ New Soldier's Record, British Army WW1 Service Records, 1914-1920, Ancestry.co.uk

⁷ Obituary in the Hants and Berks Gazette, 23 June 1917.

⁸ *ibid*

⁹ British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920 – Ancestry.co.uk

¹⁰ National Army Museum, Chelsea: Soldiers' Effects Records, 1901-1960