

Private Frederick Henry Wright WWII

Private Frederick Henry Wright, whose connection with Teffont is still remembered to this day by at least a couple of Teffont residents, Bill and Cis Goodfellow. Bill born in the village and Cis a Land Army girl from Scotland who was Teffont post mistress for many years, although they have now sadly died.

He was born in Buckinghamshire in 1920, and was the son of Samuel George Wright and Mabel Sarah Wright, whose two sisters came to live in Teffont. They lived in the Goodfellow Cottage (Figure 1), which at that time was divided into two.



Figure 1 - Goodfellow Cottage Teffont

The sisters were associated with the Rev William Keatinge-Clay and at some stage before the Second World War they introduced Frederick Wright's father to Rev Keatinge-Clay and it is believed that Samuel Wright was employed by him to look after his horses. Could this photograph in (Figure 2) copied from *The Bounding Spring* authored by Lynnette Keatinge Teffont, possibly be Samuel Wright or perhaps, Frederick's father? It is quite possible that the young Frederick helped his father, or perhaps could have been employed on the land as many of the pre-war Teffont menfolk were.



Figure 2 – Teffont Evias

This connection with Rev Keatinge-Clay explains how Frederick came to be living in Teffont and on the outbreak of war he joined the Wiltshire Regiment and would no doubt have started his training at Le Marchant barracks in Devizes.



Figure 3 - Le Marchant Barracks in Devizes

What is not clear is exactly how he came to be badged to the Royal Norfolks. The Regiment's 4th Territorial Battalion received a draft from the Initial Training Centre of the Wiltshire Regiment, which appears to have been training in Colchester, which probably accounts for the East Anglian connection. It would seem that Frederick Wright completed his training at Colchester and then was posted to the 4th Battalion of the Royal Norfolk

Regiment. That Battalion was initially involved with home defence but subsequently was deployed to Singapore where it was surrendered to the Japanese in February 1942, so perhaps had Frederick lived an even worse fate might have awaited him. However, that was not to be, and again, the records are somewhat unclear but it seems he continued his training with the Royal Norfolks and at some stage must have been exercising on Salisbury Plain, as it was here that he was killed, most likely in a training accident. The old village at Imber (Figure 4), was evacuated to allow training to take place during the Second World War. Imber is an uninhabited village within the British Army's training area on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England. It lies in an isolated area of the Plain, about 2½ miles west of the A360 road between Tilshead and West Lavington. A linear village, its main street follows the course of a stream.



Figure 4 – Imber Village

Frederick is buried in the Teffont Magna graveyard and the photograph (Figure 5 below) of his tombstone which unlike the usual War Graves Commission headstones was as it is understand it was erected by his parents. His mother who Cis Goodfellow remembers well never discussed his death in any great detail other than to say that he was killed on Salisbury Plain.



Figure 5 - Gravestone Teffont Magna Church

As is so often the case in war, sickness and accidents always take a toll. In Frederick Wright's case a terrible tragedy for his parents, relations and friends, for whom a young man in the prime of life was struck down whilst training and sadly training for war has always been a most hazardous occupation.

We remember Frederick and honour his sacrifice.