

## Second Lieutenant Frank Bowler Goodison



**Figure 1: South East view of the Parish Church of St Peter-at-Leeds, 1827. The church was rebuilt in 1841. It became a Minster in 2012**

The Goodison family originate from the Leeds area of Yorkshire. Frank's great-grandfather, John, was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1797 and baptised a month later at the Parish Church of St Peter-at-Leeds.<sup>i</sup> John became a shoe maker. On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1824, he married Sarah Baley (born around 1804) at St Peter's Church. The couple went on to have nine children.

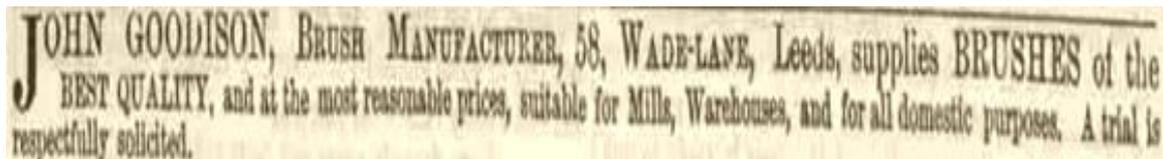
George, the second of their nine children was born on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1827.<sup>ii</sup> The family lived in an area called Black Bank in central Leeds.<sup>iii</sup> The Bank area straddled East Street and South Accommodation Road. There was Near Bank, Far Bank, The Bank and further towards York Road was Black Bank.<sup>iv</sup>

By 1841, John had set up a business as a milk dealer and was living with Sarah and their nine children in York Road, still in the Black Bank area of the City.

The next census in 1851, records the family living at 1, Edgar Street at the junction with York Road in Black Bank and John still trading as a milk dealer. George was living at home and employed as a brush maker, but by 1854, he had set up his own business. Later that year, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, George married Mary, daughter of James Bainbridge, a wheelwright, at St Marks Church.

St Mark's Church in Woodhouse is the only one of its kind left in the area. It is one of 600 churches built across the country, the so-called 'million churches', to mark the Duke of Wellington's victory over Napoleon in 1815.<sup>v</sup>

Around 1855<sup>vi</sup>, George's father, in addition to his milk dealing business, went into partnership with another of his sons, John, as a brush manufacturer. However, the business did not fare well and a year later, John senior severed his business links with John due to the debts he had incurred.<sup>vii</sup> John senior continued manufacturing brushes as a sole trader until his death on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1858.<sup>viii</sup>



**Figure 2: Advertisement for John Goodison a year after he dissolved the partnership with his son in 1856**

George and Mary, following their marriage, moved to Burlington Street where five months later, their first child Arthur was born.<sup>ix</sup> By 1858, when their next child, Henry, was born, the family had moved to Sunny Bank Terrace.<sup>x</sup>

George continued to run his own brush making business and in the 1861 census he was recorded as employing '2 men and 7 boys and girls'. George and Mary had relocated to 119 Fenton Street, Leeds with their three children, Arthur, Henry and Thomas born in 1855, 1858 and 1860 respectively. George's business continued to thrive at Swan Street, Briggate<sup>xi</sup> and by 1871 he was 'employing 37 hands'. With the business doing well, George and Mary had been able to move away from the city centre to Kirstall Lane, Headingley cum Burley. with their children Arthur, Kate (born 1863), Frank Bainbridge (born 1864), George (born 1869) and Charles (born 1870). Where Henry and Thomas were on the day of the 1871 census is not known. The family were sufficiently affluent to afford the services of a servant.

Around 1873, a world-wide economic depression, which lasted to about 1896, began.<sup>xii</sup> This must have had a profound effect on George's business as the 1881 census records that he had moved into a back-to-back terrace house at 1 Waverley Terrace, Potter-Newton (now Potternewton), Leeds<sup>xiii</sup>. The effect of the economic downturn caused George to become depressed and despondent as he had experienced two previous bankruptcies. On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 1883, George's body was found in the canal basin of the Aire and Calder Canal. The jury at the inquest returned a verdict of suicide having dismissed evidence suggesting a robbery had occurred.<sup>xiv</sup>

**SINGULAR SUICIDE OF A LEEDS BRUSH MANUFACTURER.**—On Saturday the body of George Goodison, of 10, Tanfield-street, Virginia-road, Leeds, and who was a brush manufacturer in Swan-street, Briggate, was found in the basin of the Aire and Calder Canal, at Hunslet. On the crown of deceased's head was a cut, apparently inflicted with a knife or other sharp instrument. On the bank of the canal, nearly opposite to where the remains were discovered, was the hat of deceased with marks of blood inside, and a cut corresponding with the wound in the head as to leave no doubt that the injury was inflicted whilst deceased wore his hat. The large blade of deceased's clasp knife was in his pocket stained with blood. A leather sample case full of brushes, &c., belonging to deceased, was found in the water a short distance from the body. The police discovered that Mr. Goodison had left home between five and six in the morning, and called at his warehouse in Swan-street for his travelling bag, as if he intended starting by an early train on a business journey. Neither the members of his family nor anyone else had seen him after ten on Friday night week, when he went to bed. On Saturday evening an inquest was held before the borough coroner (Mr. Malcolm) at the New Inn, Hunslet. Evidence was given by Mary Goodison, wife of deceased, who said: My husband was fifty-five. I noticed nothing unusual about him when he went to bed at ten on Friday night. When I awoke, a little before six, he had gone to business. He had been low-spirited, and as if he had not been "one among us" at home of late. He seemed to have gone into a queer, strange way, as if he could not contend with anything. I do not know whether it was owing to his business, for he never said much. I think he has been much bothered about his business, for he seemed sometimes as if he hardly knew what he was doing.—The Coroner: Has he ever threatened to injure himself?—No; but he has said sometimes that he could not contend with the business. I cannot think he has done this. I suspect that he has met with foul play. I don't think he had much money on him. The eyeglasses and the measuring rule are my husband's. So far as I know nothing that he is likely to have had with him is missing. The bag is his ordinary travelling bag. It seems to me that my husband must have had a blow. It is so unlike him to do this himself. He had been at business late and soon. It was not unusual for him to go between five and six in a morning.—A Jurymen: Has there been a family quarrel of any kind?—No, none whatever.—The Coroner: I understand your son did hint at something which the jury ought to know. It is necessary that we should know everything. I must ask you whether your husband has at any time threatened to take away his life?—He has talked about being sick of everything, and said he could not contend with things.—He made no actual threat?—No.—Benjamin Smith, lamplighter, Wintoun-street, deposed: At about six o'clock I found a travelling bag in the new dock basin at Hunslet. There is an ordinary footpath on the side of the canal basin. The bag was floating. I saw nothing else in the water.—William Fieldhouse, boat builder, Pontefract-lane, York-road, said: I discovered the hat with a cut in it on the stones about a foot from the edge of the water of the Hunslet new dock basin at about seven o'clock. I saw nothing else about the place, either in or out of the canal.—John Hobbs, boat builder, 10, Holm-place, said: The previous witness having showed me a hat he had found in the dock basin, I searched the water with a boat hook, and drew to the bank a body, which I was told was that of Mr. Goodison. It was about three yards from where the hat was found. There were no

Figure 3: Newspaper account of George's death in 1883

George's son, Frank Bainbridge Goodison, by 1890 had moved some 70 miles away and married Eliza Bowler, daughter of Thomas Bowler, a brewer by trade at St Matthew's Church, Walsall, on 11<sup>th</sup> October.<sup>xv</sup>



Figure 4: St Matthew's Church, Walsall

By 1893, Frank and Eliza had settled in Birmingham as their three children Frank Bowler, Dorothy Gaunt and George Harold had been born in 1893, 1897 and 1899 in Kings Norton. The baptismal register address for Frank junior was 240 Pershore Road, Birmingham.<sup>xvi</sup>

After his father's death in 1883, Frank had also given up the manufacture of brushes and by 1901 had set himself up as a gold leaf manufacturer, in Birmingham. He was doing well enough to employ a domestic nurse and a cook at the family address at 'Abersock', Sandford Road, Moseley .

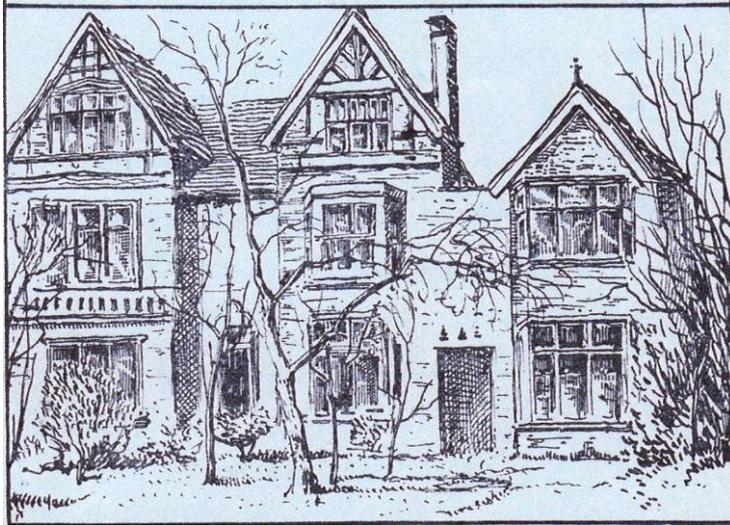


Figure 5: Wintersloe

Frank's eldest son Frank Bowler Goodison was born on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1893.<sup>xvii</sup> He was educated at Wintersloe from 1903 to 1910, a private educational establishment on the Wake Green Road, Moseley.<sup>xviii</sup> On leaving school Frank became a medical student at Birmingham University. During his time there he joined the Officer Training Corps which he

retired from on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1914 to join the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, as a Private, No 14/203, a month after his twenty-first birthday. At the time of his attestation on 8<sup>th</sup> September, for Short Service (three years with the Colours), he was medically examined and passed 'fit'. He was 5'11½" tall, weighed 134 lbs and had green eyes, a ruddy complexion and dark hair.<sup>xix</sup>

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 1915, Frank applied for a commission with the 3/5 Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment which was granted just three weeks later on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1915. He had served for 300 days with the 14<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment (1<sup>st</sup> Birmingham Pals Battalion).<sup>xx</sup> At the time of his application his address for correspondence was given as No 203, 6 Platoon, B Company (Birmingham Battalion) Sutton Coldfield. His home address was 'Wensleydale' (No 21), St Agnes Road, Moseley.

By the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1915<sup>xxi</sup>, Frank's officer training was complete and he was posted to the 1/5 South Staffordshire Regiment at Fourquieres in France, part of the 137 Infantry Brigade, 46<sup>th</sup> Division. Over the next two months, he experienced the stark realities of Trench Warfare and the regular exchanges of artillery between the opposing forces together with the discomforts and tedium of being in reserve and the rigours of training.



Figure 6: *HMS Magnificent*

On Christmas day, the 1/5 South Staffordshire Regiment entrained for Marseilles at Berguette Station. A week later, on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1916, the battalion embarked for Alexandria, Egypt, on *HMS Magnificent*. It was originally a guard ship that had been converted to a troop ship for use in the Dardanelles Campaign.<sup>xxii</sup>

The loading of the ship was not without some drama. While a lighter was taking on its first load at the quay side, an accident occurred. Some 150 men and several machine guns and other stores were already on board when a girder supporting the hatches gave way. As a consequence, about 50 men, the machine guns and the bulk of the luggage fell some 10 feet to the bottom of the lighter. One man broke a leg and was sent to hospital and five others were injured about the head, but most of the other men received slight cuts and bruises and a shock.<sup>xxiii</sup>

On arrival at Alexandria, the battalion was stationed at Number 5 Post on the first (No 1) Section of the Suez Canal, where they remained until the end of January before they were transferred back to Sidi Bishr Camp ready for embarkation back to Marseilles on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1916 on *HMT Transylvania*.

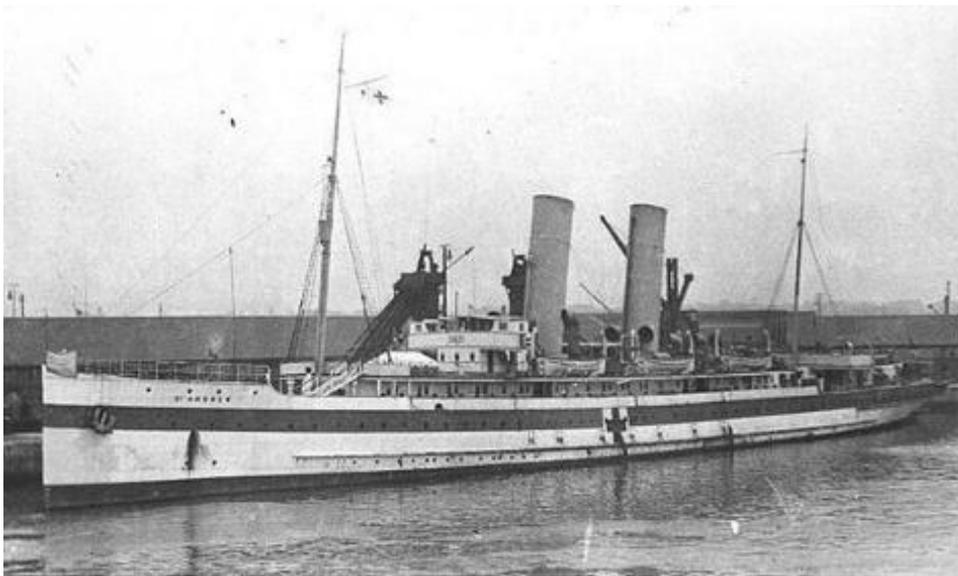
Frank makes reference to his time in Egypt in a letter to his alma mater, a quote from which appears in the 'Quidquid Agunt Homines' (Whatever things men have done) section of *Wintersloe Magazine* for April 1916

F B Goodison went to France and on to Egypt where he has "been indulging in one or two local strafes with the Arabs." He thinks the war gets more like a Cook's tour every day, and sends word to the Wintersloe boys that their chance will come in 1926 when the war really starts."<sup>xxiv</sup>

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 1916, the battalion was back in France where they entrained for Port Dorny before marching to Bellancourt. At the end of the month, 28<sup>th</sup> February, an incident occurred during a training exercise in grenade throwing. Sergeant Pritchard, a qualified bomber, withdrew the pin from a live No 5 Mills grenade in preparation for throwing, when it immediately exploded in his hand.

The sergeant survived the explosion, although badly injured, but one man was killed, another died of wounds and 12 officers and men were wounded.<sup>xxv</sup>

In April the battalion were at Écoivres manning the front line trenches east of Neuville St Vaast between periods of training and in reserve. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month, while in Brigade reserve, enemy artillery was noted as 'active'. At 7.15 pm that evening, Frank received an injury from a shrapnel bullet. As a result he was sent to a casualty clearing station and from there to Rouen where on the night of the 17<sup>th</sup> April he sailed to Southampton on the Hospital Ship *St Andrew*. On arrival Frank was transferred to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley.<sup>xxvi</sup>



**Figure 7: (Above top) Hospital Ship St Andrew  
(Above) Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, near Southampton**

A Medical board held on 16<sup>th</sup> April found that:

A shrapnel bullet passed through the right upper arm on the inner side, lower third – there is no bone or nerve damage.

Two months later Frank went before another Medical Board on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1916, held at Osborne, Isle of Wight, to assess his progress:

The wounds had been sulphurated and scraping was necessary. Now healed but the patient is very thin and very down.

Frank was passed as 'unfit' for general service and given 6 weeks recovery leave together with a war pension. His wound was treated during his recovery leave at the 1<sup>st</sup> Southern General Hospital based in the main hall of the University of Birmingham., just a short distance from where he had been a medical student at the start of the war.<sup>xxvii</sup>

On the 14<sup>th</sup> July, Frank was at last passed as 'fit' for general service and on 28<sup>th</sup> of the month received orders to proceed to Folkestone and to report personally to the Embarkation Commandant, in order to rejoin his regiment. Whether or not Frank rejoined his regiment is not clear. There is no mention of him in the regiment's war diary as being 'on strength'. By the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1916, Frank's service records that he had transferred to the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) with the intention of becoming a pilot. On 5<sup>th</sup> January 1917 he was posted to 62 Squadron, but after training he was deemed as 'unlikely to become efficient pilot.'

This must have come as a great disappointment to him. As a consequence of this decision by the RFC training staff, Frank was posted to 48<sup>th</sup> Squadron on 27<sup>th</sup> February, where he commenced training as a Flying Officer Observer. Five weeks later, Frank was appointed a Flying Officer Observer with seniority backdated to 9<sup>th</sup> March 1917 and posted to 48 Squadron in France.<sup>xxviii</sup>

The early flights in the brand new F.2.A.'s used by 48 Squadron were not propitious. Instead of using the tactical advantages of the improved forward mounted propeller gun, 'tried and tested' two-seater defensive tactics were adopted that allowed the observer/gunners their fields of fire. The first patrol on 5<sup>th</sup> April using the new planes was a disaster. The patrol found themselves surrounded by German aircraft from Jasta 2 (one of the best-known German Luftstreitkräfte Squadrons), led by Manfred von Richthofen, 'the Red Baron'. They were all shot down and taken prisoner.

The same thing happened to Frank, three days later on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1917. While on an offensive patrol with his pilot, Second Lieutenant Oswald William Berry, flying the Bristol F2A A3330, they met an Albatros DIII<sup>xxxix</sup>, a German fighter plane flown by the Scouts of *Jasta 2*, east of Arras. Their plane was shot down and was seen to glide to earth near Remy. Lieutenant Fritz Otto Bernert was credited with the victory. It was the 16th of his eventual 27 victories.<sup>xxx</sup>



Figure 8

(Above left) The Albatros D. III, the German preminent fighter during the period known as "Bloody April" 1917

(Above right) Bristol F2 Fighter

(Left) Notification of the death of Frank at Mainz Fortress Hospital

Officer 15728  
 Sterbeurkunde.  
 Nr. 1155. 1032  
 Mainz am 25. Mai 1917.

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der Persönlichkeit nach  
 der Person des obigen Benennungsinhabers  
 wohnhaft in  
 und sagte an, daß der Leichnam im englischen South  
 Staff Regiment und Kommando des Major  
 Frank Goodison,  
 33 Jahre alt, evangelischer Religion,  
 wohnhaft in Birmingham in England,  
 geboren zu Birmingham, Leichnam

Leichnam des Oberst Goodison, (Kandidat Goodison  
 und seiner Person) und seiner Person (Kandidat  
 Goodison) verstorben in  
 am 25. Mai 1917  
 des Jahres tausend neunhundert  
 fünf mittags um zwölf Uhr  
 verstorben ist.

Bezeugen, genehmigt und  
 (Kopfbedeckung)

Der Standesbeamte.  
 In Vertretung D. H.

Zur vorstehenden Angabe mit dem Sterbe-Buch-Register des Standesamtes zu  
 Mainz  
 wird hiermit bezeugt.  
 Mainz am 31. Juli 1917.  
 Der Standesbeamte.  
 In Vertretung D. H.

The pilot was killed immediately, but Frank survived, although badly injured. He was taken to the German Military Fortress Hospital at Mainz where he died of wounds just over seven weeks later on 26th May 1917 at 12.30 pm.

Frank is buried at Niederrzewhren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany.

Frank left effects of £163 18s (about £10,500 in today's money) to his father Frank Goodison, goldbeater of 21 St Agnes Road.<sup>xxxix</sup>

Frank is commemorated at St Mary's Church and St Agnes Church, Moseley He is named on the Birmingham University WW1 memorial inside the Aston Webb building and the Roll of Honour at the Hall of Memory in Birmingham.

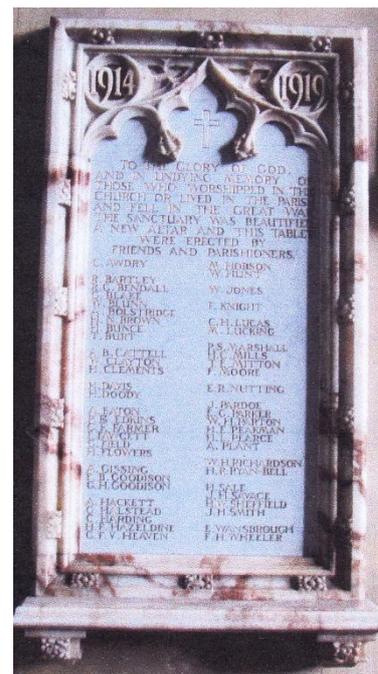
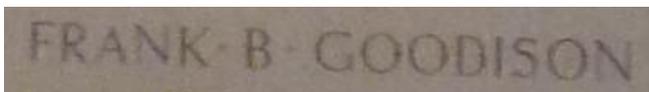


Figure 9  
 (Top left) Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel  
 (Top Right) St Mary's Church WW1 memorial  
 (Bottom Left) Birmingham University WW1 memorial, with Frank's name below  
 (Right) St Agnes Church WW1 memorial



Frank's father lost both sons in WW1. His younger son, George Harold Goodison, was killed in action in 1918.

Researched and written by Edwina Rees  
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### Footnotes

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- i West Yorkshire, Church of England, Baptism, Marriages and Burials 1512-1812
- ii West Yorkshire, Church of England, Baptism, Marriages and Banns 1813-1935  
Baptisms solemnised at the Parish Church of Leeds, 1827  
1841 census
- iii West Yorkshire, Church of England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910
- iv Roots Chat  
<http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=677048.0>
- v *Yorkshire Evening Post*, 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014
- vi John was still a milk dealer at the time of George's marriage.
- vii *Perry's Bankrupt and Insolvent Gazette*, 26<sup>th</sup> June 1856
- viii *Leeds Times*, 18<sup>th</sup> April 1857  
National Probate Calender 1858-1966
- ix West Yorkshire, Church of England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 for Arthur Goodison
- x See iii
- xi *Leeds Times*, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1883
- xii The Long Depression  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long\\_Depression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Depression)
- xiii Potternewton Hall  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potternewton>

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- xiv *Leeds Times*, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1883
- xv Staffordshire Banns  
1881 census
- xvi Birmingham, England, Church of England, Baptisms 1813-1912
- xvii National Archives, Officers after 1913, Ref WO 374/27952
- xviii Wintersloe Magazine, No LX, July 1917, p 9  
Moseley Society History Group Ref C2/D3/F9/12. With thanks to Janet Berry
- xix National Archives, Officers after 1913, Ref WO 374/27952
- xx *London Gazette*, 6<sup>th</sup> July 1915, Issue 29218, p 6594
- xxi British Army WW1 Medal Index
- xxii National Archives, Officers after 1913, Ref WO 374/27952  
*HMS Magnificent*  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Magnificent\\_\(1894\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Magnificent_(1894))
- xxiii War Diary of the 1/5 Staffordshire Regiment, National Archives, WO 95/2686/1, p 54
- xxiv Wintersloe Magazine , No LIX, April 1916, p 12  
Moseley Society History Group Ref C2/D3/F9/11  
With thanks to Janet Berry who is currently undertaking research on Wintersloe
- xxv War Diary of the 1/5 Staffordshire Regiment, National Archives, WO 95/2686/1, p 56
- xxvi National Archives, Officers after 1913, Ref WO 374/27952  
War Diary of the 1/5 Staffordshire Regiment, National Archives, WO 95/2686/1, p 61
- xxvii Medical Report from 1<sup>st</sup> Southern Cross Hospital 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1916 from the National Archives, Officers after 1913, Ref WO 374/27952
- xxviii *London Gazette*, 25<sup>th</sup> May 1917  
<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30092/supplement/5146/data.pdf>
- xxix List of Aerial Victories  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Tidmarsh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Tidmarsh)
- xxx Invision zone  
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- xxxi UK, Foreign and Overseas Registers of British Subjects, 1628-1969 for Frank B. Goodison

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Birmingham University WW1 memorial. Photograph by Edwina Rees