

A CASE STUDY IN SLEEP DEPRIVATION



Francis Murray.

MURRAY, FRANCIS, Private, No. 2889, 9th (Service) Battn. The Gordon Highlanders, s. of William Murray, of 3, Welsh Row, Calderbank, by his wife, Annie, dau. of Francis Duffy; and brother to Private G. Murray (*q.v.*); b. Glasgow, 21 July, 1895; educ. Chapel Hall R.C. School there; was a Miner in Woodhall Collieries; volunteered and enlisted 1 Sept. 1914; served with the Expeditionary Force in France 1914–16, and was killed in action there 1 Oct. 1916; *unm.*

FILE OPENED IN REGION I ON
FORWARDED TO

- 7.22

Hollinwood

DAM. 5048

M.P.W. 3.

DEAD
as per list

DD/85 M

Registered No. GORDON HORS

DEPENDANT'S PENSION.

1/D/32618



George ✓

Francis ✓



19494 ✓

Man's Name MURRAY

(Surname first : in Block Letters)

Regimental
Official

No. 8/2889 ✓

Regiment or Ship H.L.I.

GORDON HORS

Rank
Rating

Pte ✓

Date of Death 29.10.16

1.10.16

Cause of Death

Killed in action

Shot by sentence of Court Martial

Name of Dependant MURRAY

Mr. William

Relationship to Man Father

Address 5 Welsh Row

CALDERBANK

BY AIRPRIE

DEPENDANT'S CARD HAS INCORRECTLY ALSO LISTED FRANCIS' BROTHER'S NAME (GEORGE) AND SERVICE NUMBER. GEORGE WAS NOT SENTENCED TO BE SHOT; HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION.

Francis was first listed as "Killed in Action" then corrected to "Shot by sentence of Court Martial."

Name Dampier Wm 40 Region (3) 10-4-22 13/W/368
 Regimental No. 155789 Case No. 1983
 Regiment R. E. (173rd Coy) Rank Spr
 Form 104-88 received 6.11.16. Date of notification of death 11.9.16. Form 104-76 received 13/APW/401
 Date and cause of death 2.9.16 wounds wilfully inflicted by a comrade whilst on Active Service
 Widow Mary. 7 Cathedral Walk Date of birth 1.5.71 (Sworn Declaration of widow)
 Children:— Cork. Grant paid Dec 10-8-17

Name	Date of birth	Date of expiry	Remarks
			SDF 14.2.14
	1931 DEAD 2.11.10.32	MJ0815	No. for whom S.A. is paid —
			W.F.A. 19/2

Pension 15% a week from 19.3.17
 Date awarded 6.3.17
 Papers _____ If refused, reason {

DEPENDANT'S PENSION

11/PP/61385 £2.8.20

Name **Dampier, Fred^k William** Regimental No. **19863**
 Regiment **Somerset L. I.** Rank **Pte**

Case No.
~~D.P. D.7~~

Documents received from Paymaster **27. 1. 17.**
 Date and cause of death **8. 16. gas poisoning. B.S.F.**

11/D/98901
 A. 135

Dependant **Mr Elizabeth G. Dampier**
 Address **Athelney, Burrow Bridge, Bridgewater, Somerset**
 Relationship to soldier **mother**

U.S.
DEAD
S.E. 9520
L. 6 10/4/35

D.D.B. 207

Medical Certificate

Children:—

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Expiry	Remarks

Pension **3/6. 3/6.** a week from **6. 3. 17. 6. 3. 17 to 5. 3. 18.**
 Date awarded **12. 3. 17** If refused {
 Papers **P.A.** reason {

WHAT CAUSED FRANCIS MURRAY TO GO ON A RAMPAGE WITH A RIFLE AND SHOOT TWO FELLOW SOLDIERS, ONE OF WHOM DIED FROM HIS WOUNDS?

- **HE WAS BORN IN 21 JULY 1895, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND TO WILLIAM AND ANNIE MURRAY. HE HAD A BROTHER GEORGE, BORN 1893, WHO ALSO SERVED IN THE ARMY, AND HAD BEEN KILLED IN 1915. HIS DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.**
- **FRANCIS HAD BEEN A LABOURER BEFORE JOINING THE ARMY. WHILE IN THE ARMY, HE HAD SEVERAL DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM HIS ALCOHOL ABUSE. SOME THINK HE MAY HAVE BEEN A FULL-BLOWN ALCOHOLIC BEFORE GOING TO FRANCE.**

- **HE HAD SEEN HEAVY FIGHTING ON THE FRONT LINE OF THE WAR.**
- **HE ADMITTED TO HAVING DEPRESSING AND WAS SUFFERING FROM SLEEP DEPRIVATION.**
- **HE STATED TO THE COURT MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS THAT HE HAD BEEN DOING REGULAR NIGHT WORK WITH ONLY ONE DAY OF REST IN SEVEN.**

FROM THE BOOK “MURDEOUS TOMMIES,” BY PUTKOWSKI AND DUNNING, WE FIND THIS STATEMENT CONCERNING MURRAY:

“Sleep loss does not usually turn sufferers into murderers, but sleeplessness erodes rational thinking and alcohol is known to induce mood swings, including paranoia, hallucinations and loss of memory. War or no war, chronic sleep deprivation and booze would have been enough to transform Murray into an incoherent, capering lunatic, with a persecution complex.”