



William Myers Houseman was aged 20 years when he was instructed to attend a medical examination for entry to the Military service on the 18 March. 1918.

A medical examination took place that recorded him as standing 5 feet 5.5 inches tall and having a chest measurement of 34.5 inches and weighed 124 pounds. He was found fit for service.

William was employed as a blacksmith at the time of his enlistment. His address is given as Ashgrove House, Dacre.

He was single, and gave as his next of kin his father William Houseman of Ashgrove House, Dacre.

He signed the declaration on the attestation form, swore an oath and received the "King's shilling". William was then accepted into the army as a Private. He was instructed to return home and to continue civilian life while he was formally on the Army Reserve, awaiting call up. He duly received notice and was mobilised on 29 June 1918 and he was posted to the 3rd btn York & Lancaster Regiment as Private 61364 on the 30 June.

On the 16 July 1918 he was attached to the 4th btn Queen's Royal West Surreys. On the 23 November he was posted to France with the British Expeditionary Force with the 1st/4th btn York & Lancaster Regiment.

On the 31 January 1919 he was posted back to England and was discharged on the 21 February 1919.

There is no record of William Myers Houseman receiving any medals, this is probably because he entered the theatre of war after the armistice was signed on the 11 November 1918.

In France

The 1/4th bn York & Lancaster regiment were part of the 148th (3rd West Riding) Brigade of the 49th Division.

The West Riding Division was a Territorial Force Division already in existence at the outbreak of the war. The Division and Brigades were not numbered until April 1915 previously just named. Arrived in France in April 1915. Served in France and Flanders until the Armistice.

As William was posted to France after the Armistice was signed it is very unlikely that he was involved in any fighting.

As I can not find a Medal Card for him I assume this to be the case as no medals would have been awarded.

Below is a description received from the York and Lancaster Regimental museum about William's battalion following my request for information

William Myers Houseman arrived at an interesting time, the 1/4th Battalion were winding down from war. When he joined them the Battalion were in Le Forest in France. They were carrying out three days of ceremonial duties alternating with three days of salvage and education. The troops had to collect all materials of war scattered over the countryside and put them in central dumps. The Battalion CO insisted that all his troops had refresher courses in the 'three R's' and career training ready for return to civilian life. At the end of November they moved to the neighbouring village of Raimbeaucourt and things changed. The mornings were still spent in education and salvage with little interest. However, the afternoon was spent exercising by football, running, boxing and hockey. The Battalion had teams in every Brigade and Division competition and league. Cinema, hare and hounds, and race meetings also added to the fun. They also got better at ceremonial parades and march pasts. On the 26th February 1919 the life of leisure ended as the Battalion were sent to Cologne (Köln) to join the Army of Occupation.

With Thanks to:
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