



## **William Francis Paddock**

2nd Lieutenant,  
4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers  
Died of wounds  
9 April 1917  
Aged 22

**William Francis Paddock** was born at Wing, Bedfordshire on 8 September 1894, the son of William Peters Paddock, Headmaster of Eaton Bray School and Kate Louisa Paddock (nee List).

While attending Dunstable Grammar School William passed the Senior Cambridge Local Examination and carried off both Hervey School Prizes. After leaving school he worked as a Clerk with Barclays Bank at Newport Pagnall, Buckinghamshire.

He enlisted as Private 6667 in the Officer Cadet Battalion and after seven months training was sent to France on 14 November 1915. A few months later, on 24 March 1916, he returned to England to receive a commission to the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers becoming 2nd Lieutenant on 4 August 1916.

On Easter Monday, 9 April 1917, the opening day of the First Battle of The Scarpe, close to the city of Arras, he led his platoon "over the top" to attack a series of trenches known as "The Harp", which they carried. Going forward again, two German machine guns were "decimating" the regiment and William immediately went for them, killing two gunners but was himself shot in the abdomen. He was carried to No 19 Casualty Clearing Station but died of his wounds the same day.

In a letter to William's father his Commanding Officer wrote *"Your boy, who was carried out of action by our own stretcher bearers, was a most gallant officer and had the satisfaction of knowing that his company had carried out all of its objectives. Had he survived I should have recommended him for the Military Cross. I shall however recommend your son for the honour of a mention in dispatches."*

Following his death an envelope containing a photo and addressed to a Miss D.Grieve of Portobello, Midlothian was found in his possessions along with a note written in pencil on a scrap of paper that read *"If I get laid out, killed that is, kindly send the photo to the address on the letter and oblige a departed soul. WF Paddock, 2Lt 4RF"*

***Remembered with Honour***

**Duisans British Cemetery**  
Duisans, France