

I was looking through old copies of the Mansfield Reporter which have just become available online and found a reference dated 17<sup>th</sup> September 1915 to a Lieut G G Hicking serving with the 11<sup>th</sup> Bn Yorkshire Regt. Now, his name is not in the Database of Names so I thought I would try to find out what happened to him.

My first port of call was the Medal Card Index. This indicates that George Graham Hicking started his war service with the Yorks Regiment but transferred to the York and Lancaster Regiment and shows that he died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme i.e., 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916; sadly his brother Lieut Francis Joseph Hicking died the same day whilst serving with the West Yorkshire Regt.

George qualified for the 15 Star with the Y & L in the Dardanelles. The 11<sup>th</sup> Bn Yorks Regt., was (as you will know) raised in October 1914 and converted to a Reserve Bn., on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1916 and didn't go abroad. Unlike the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn., Y & L Regt., which landed in Gallipoli 6<sup>th</sup> August 1915. This means he would have been with the Yorks for less than a year.

I then checked Free BMD and found he was born in 1893 in the Basford RD Nottinghamshire. This lead me to the Nottinghamshire C.C. ROH website where there is a biography see;

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/People/Details/25493>

You will see that he is commemorated on two memorials in Ruddington (where he as born) both of which you have already posted. Unfortunately, I didn't photograph all the plaques on the community memorial which is covered extensively here:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour/WarMemorials/Details/642>

You can see his name on the plaque inside St Peter's Church albeit recorded as Hickling.

There is a note in the biography that his parents moved to Buckinghamshire so I checked <http://buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk/> and found that he and his brother are commemorated on two Rolls of Honour in Chalfont St Peter, one in All Saints Church the other in St Paul's Church.

There is this further detailed information about him which slightly muddies the water: <http://buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk/casualties/m5321.html>

This suggests that he was in the Dardanelles with the Yorks which can't be right. A possible explanation is that he was initially attached to the Y & L as a Yorks officer before he was gazetted to the Y & L when the Regiment was moved to France.

You will see in the biographies that he attended Uppingham School. I have a photo of the part of the School's War Memorial commemorating his name which I will forward. He is also commemorated on his parents' headstone in Cheltenham Cemetery, Gloucestershire along with his brother.