# George Frederick Myers (1885 – 1962)

George Frederick Myers, born in Bradford, was one of six children. His father owned a textile manufacturing company and employed his sons in the family firm. George would later run a textile firm of his own, in Keighley.

George's association with Farnhill began when he married a girl from Kildwick in 1908.



He began his army service in 1917 and was discharged in April 1919, suffering from a heart condition. He returned to live in Farnhill.

George's wife died in 1923 and he moved to Riddlesden. He married for a second time in 1925.

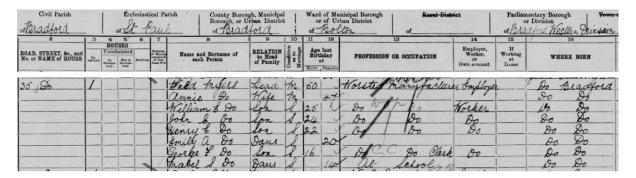
He died in 1962.

### Pre-war life

George Frederick Myers was born in Bradford on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1885, the fifth of six children born to Frederick and Annie (nee Barker). Both his parents were from Bradford and his father had his own textile manufacturing company.

All his siblings had been baptised at Westgate Wesleyan Chapel, Bradford. The family tradition seems to have been to have the children baptised in pairs, and so it was that George was baptised along with his younger sister, Mabel Sarah, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1892 – by which time he was already seven years old.

The 1891 census recorded the family living in the Manningham area of Bradford. George was at school but it appears that two of his older brothers, William aged 15 and John aged 14, may already have been working in the family business. By 1901 George may also have been employed by his father, as a clerk.



On 15<sup>th</sup> July 1908 George married Mary Green, from Kildwick, in St. Andrew's Church. The couple set up home at 11 South View, Farnhill.

By this time George may have branched out into business on his own account, as in the 1911 census he was recorded as being a worsted and cotton manufacturer.

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Extract from the 1911 census return for the Myers household
Used under licence from the National Archive

**Note:** The "Particulars of Marriage" section records that the couple had been married for two years. They had had a child, who was still living; no children born to the marriage had died.

The couple had a daughter, Muriel Mary, born 10<sup>th</sup> May 1910, and a son, George Michael, born 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1912.

#### WW1 service

George Frederick Myers attested his willingness to serve in the armed forces, and signed in the oath, on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1915. He was then assigned to the army reserve, where he stayed for almost 18 months.

At the end of April 1917 George received instructions to report to the Royal Army Service Corps' Mechanical Transport Depot in south-east London, where he began his service on 11<sup>th</sup> May (as Private, M/321313).

The role of the RASC was to provide logistical support to the fighting troops and George Myers may have been trained as a lorry driver. His records show that he passed a "Learners Test" on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1917.

He was sent over to France on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1917 where he served, with what might have been a short break elsewhere between 19<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1918, until 5<sup>th</sup> March 1919.

Returned to the UK on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1919, George was discharged from the army on 29<sup>th</sup> April, as "No longer physically fit for War Service". The reason given was "DAH and Cardiac Enlargement".

**Note:** "DAH", or "Disordered Action of the Heart", also known as "Soldier's Heart" or "Effort Syndrome" was a catch-all term covering conditions resulting from a combination of over-exertion, mental stress and fatigue.

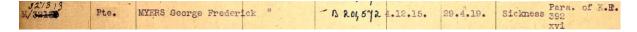
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Extract from Private George Myers' WW1 service record – Statement of Service Used under licence from the National Archive

He was subsequently awarded a Silver War Badge (number B201572), in addition to his Victory and British War service medals.

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Private George Myers' WW1 Medal Card – showing eligibility for a Silver War Badge Used under licence from the National Archive



Extract from the RASC WW1 Silver War Badge Roll Used under licence from the National Archive

**Note:** Silver War Badges (SWB), sometimes known as the "Discharge Badge", the "Wound Badge" or "Services Rendered Badge", were first issued in September 1916. They were awarded to men who were unable to continue in the services due to illness or wounds sustained. They were intended to be worn on civilian clothing and so counteract the practice of "white-feathering" men who had wounds that rendered them unfit for war service, but which were not obvious from their outward appearance.

He was also given a pension of 15s 6d per month plus an additional 2s 4d per month for his two children, for what was judged to be a 20% disablement.

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Extract from Private George Myers' WW1 service record – Pension
Used under licence from the National Archive

In 1920 payments were reduced to 8s per week for himself and 4s 8d per week for his two children and in April 1922 this was changed to a payment of 10s 6d per week for 35 weeks – although what happened after this is unclear.

Form No. S.B 36. M.T. E. 7016  Surname. M YERS  (In block letters)  Unit and Regiment or Corps. R. A. S. C.  Date of Discharge. 29. 4.19  Year of Birth 885  Marital Status   W. = Widower   M. Regional 4/1  No. 4/1	M M/ Nº 965
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Extracts from GF Myers' WW1 pension ledger (SB 36)
Used under licence from the National Archive

## Post-war life

George Myers returned to Farnhill where he and his family continued to live for a number of years.

The 1921 census records the family living at 2 South View. George was working at his father's cotton and worsted manufacturing business in Bradford.

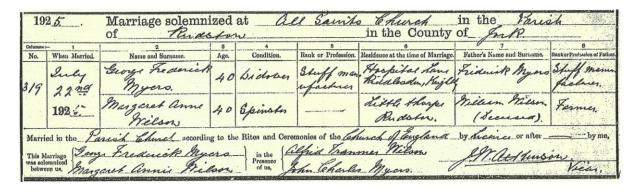
In 1924 the family moved to Riddlesden. The move away may have been triggered by the death of Mary Myers on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1923, aged 37. She was buried in Kildwick graveyard.



Mary Myers' gravestone in Kildwick graveyard – a cross with plinth, now laid flat

In Riddlesden the family initially lived at number 14 Hospital Road and then, from 1937, at number 37.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1925 George married Margaret Anne Wilson of Rudston, near Bridlington. The wedding, which was at All Saints Church in Rudston, was witnessed by John Charles, one of George's older brothers.



Margaret came to live in Riddlesden, and on the 1928 electoral roll 14 Hospital Road was recorded as having the name "Rudston" – presumably given to the house by George and Margaret Anne.

Around this time the couple were also on the electoral register as the owners of business premises in Lawkholme Lane, Keighley. This matches with their entry on the 1939 register (taken when WW2 ration cards were being issued) which recorded George as being "Textile Manufacturer, Lawkholme Weaving Co. Ltd." – presumably this was located in Lawkholme Lane.



Extract from the 1939 Register for 37 Hospital Road, Riddlesden Used under licence from the National Archive

Margaret Anne Myers died in 1944.

George Michael Myers, George's only son, died on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1962 at his home in West Morton. He was 49 years old. He left a wife and daughter.

George Frederick Myers died on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1962; he was aged 77.

# **Postscript**

Muriel Mary Myers, George's only surviving child, left 37 Hospital Road shortly after her father died. She herself died, somewhere in the Keighley area, in 1980. She was unmarried.

George's only grandchild, George Michael's daughter, is known to have married, although whether or not she had children is not known.

A number of George's siblings are known to have married and had children and there may be descendants living in the Keighley area.

# **George Frederick Myers - a life in summary**

**Born:** 4/1/1885, Bradford

Baptised: 8/8/1892, Bradford Wesleyan Chapel

**Died:** 18/11/1962 **Aged:** 77

Home address: 37 Hospital Road, Riddlesden

#### **Parents**

Father: Frederick; b. 16/12/1850, Manningham; d. 30/10/1926, Riddlesden

Mother: Annie (nee Barker); b. 20/8/1853, Bradford; bapt. 3/4/1861, Bradford St. Peter's

d. 1911, Keighley (Registration district)

Married: 1874, Bradford (Registration district)

# **Siblings**

William Edward; b. 1875, Bradford; bapt. 4/6/1877, Westgate Wesleyan Chapel, Bradford;

m. Annie Gell, 30/8/1914, Bingley; d. 1938, North Bierley (Registration district)

John Charles; b. 1876, Bradford; bapt. 4/6/1877, Westgate Wesleyan Chapel, Bradford;

m. Elsie May Hobson, 3/1/1915, Girlington; d. 26/7/1954, Worth Valley (Registration district)

Henry Emsley; b. 1878, Bradford; bapt. 29/7/1883, Westgate Wesleyan Chapel, Bradford

Emily Annie; b. 1881, Bradford; bapt. 29/7/1883, Westgate Wesleyan Chapel, Bradford;

m. Herbert Greenhough Naylor, 8/9/1909, Crossflatts; d. 9/10/1947, Baildon

Mabel Sarah; b. 1886, Bradford; bapt. 8/8/1892, Bradford Wesleyan Chapel;

m. Thomas Elliot, 28/4/1919, Heaton; d. 18/6/1946, Misterton, Nottinghamshire

#### WW1 service

**Attested:** 4/12/1915

**Service period:** 11/5/1917 to 29/4/1919

**Regt:** Royal Army Service Corps; Private, no. M/321313 **Medals:** British War Medal, Victory Medal, Silver War Badge

Home address: 11 South View, Farnhill

## **Marriage**

Wife: (1) Mary Green; b. 1886, Kildwick; d. 8/9/1923, Farnhill; buried 11/9/1923, Kildwick

(2) Margaret Anne Wilson of Little Thorpe, Rudston; b. 7/4/1885;

d. 1944, Keighley (Registration district)

Date: (1) 15/7/1908, at St. Andrew's Kildwick

(2) 22/7/1925, at Rudston near Bridlington

## Children

Muriel Mary, b. 10/5/1910, Farnhill; d. 1980 Keighley (Registration district)

George Michael, b. 3/4/1912, Farnhill; m. Daisy Longthorne, 12/10/1933, Riddlesden;
d. 7/1/1962, West Morton





