Frederick John Mills

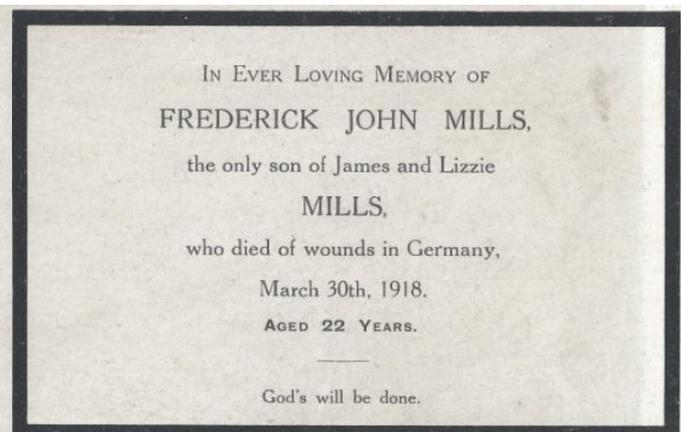**1189, Hunts Cyclist Bn: 43067, 2nd Bn. Bedfordshire Regiment: DOW 3rd May 1918 aged 22**

Frederick was born in 1896 in Abbotts Ripton the only son of James and Elizabeth (nee Peach) Mills. He was known as Jack. James was a shepherd and Jack also worked on a farm. Along with his parents and 2 younger sisters Jack came to live in Ramsey Road, Warboys.

Jack was one of a number of local men who enlisted in the Hunts Cyclists Battalion which had a hall in Warboys. This Battalion served on the home front patrolling the East Coast to repel any German invasion. In August 1916 he made a Soldier's Will leaving all property and effects to "**my dear mother".** He transferred to the Bedfordshire Regiment and was sent to France. He was injured earlier in the war and again during the German Spring Offensive of 1918. He was posted as missing on 22nd March 1918 and presumably taken prisoner as he is recorded by the Germans as having died in their military hospital at Bohain on the 3rd May 1918. They buried him in Bohain Cemetery After the war his body was found by the British, identified by a cross on the grave and "**paper found in bottle**" in the grave and reburied in Premont British Cemetery.

The Battalion war diary records that during the Battle of St. Quentin, on 22nd March, the enemy attacked in large numbers and some prisoners were taken. They surrounded B Company (to which Jack belonged) and only a few got back. The Battalion withdrew but there were a number of casualties from machine gun and shrapnel fire.

The family believed that Jack died on 30th March 1918.

ONE OF THE LOVED ONES.

In an unknown grave in Germany,
Sleeps a loving Son and a Brother dear,
The one we loved but could not save,
We prayed for his safe return,
We longed to clasp his hand,
But God has postponed the meeting,
Till we meet in the better land,
We mourn for you dear Jack,
But not with an outward show,
For those who mourn sincerely,
Mourn silently and low,
No matter how we pray dear Jack,
No matter how we call,
There's nothing left to answer,
But your photo on the wall.

ONE OF THE BEST.

IN EVER LOVING MEMORY OF

FREDERICK JOHN MILLS,

the only son of James and Lizzie

MILLS,

who died of wounds in Germany,

March 30th, 1918.

AGED 22 YEARS.

God's will be done.

His family continued to live in Warboys his father dying in 1922 and his mother in 1925. His sisters added Jack's name to their parents' gravestone in Warboys Church Cemetery. This is Jack's younger sister Sarah, known as Tiny, standing by the grave.