



Name: **2/Lt Francis GRISSELL 1st Coldstream Guards**

Age			
	Parents:	Thomas De La Garde GRISSELL (born in 1852 in Wales - died 25 Dec 1915 in Suffolk, ENG) and Frances Adelaide BEALE (born in 1854 - died in 1888, buried in Mickleham, SRY, ENG)	
30	Life Range	1886 - 15 Sep 1916	
	Marriage Status:	This person never married and had no children	
-34	1852	Birth of Father:	Thomas De La Garde GRISSELL (born in 1852 in Wales - died 25 Dec 1915 in Suffolk, ENG). In Wales.
-32	1854	Birth of Mother:	Frances Adelaide BEALE (born in 1854 - died in 1888, buried in Mickleham, SRY, ENG).
0	1886	Birth:	Dorking, Surrey, ENG.
2	1888	Death of Mother:	Frances Adelaide BEALE (born in 1854 - died in 1888, buried in Mickleham, SRY, ENG).
5	1891	Census:	Hove, SSX, ENG. 7 Fourth Avenue: Thomas D. GRISSELL , widower, 38, JP for Surrey Surveyors (?), born Chepstow, Monmouthshire Wales Thomas D., 12, born Mickleham, Surrey [<i>Thomas de la Garde, Lt-Col Suffolk Regt, MC, survived</i>] Bernard S., 11, born Mickleham, Surrey [<i>Bernard Salwey, Lt-Col Norfolk Regt, KIA 19/4/17</i>] Margaret W. (?), 10, born Mickleham, Surrey Arthur D., 8, born Mickleham, Surrey [<i>Died 1896</i>] Francis , 5, born Mickleham, Surrey (Plus a Governess and 6 Servants) RG12; Piece: 817; Folio: 95; Page: 33; GSU roll: 6095927
13	From 1899 to 1904	School:	Harrow.
15	1901	Census:	Harrow School. Francis GRISSELL , 15, Student, born Dorking, Surrey RG13 ; Piece: 1207 ; Folio: 70 ; Page: 54
24	1910-1915	Other:	Yeomanry: 1st Scottish Horse CO.
29	6 Jul 1915	Enlistment:	
29	30 Oct 1915	Commission:	
29	25 Dec 1915	Death of Father:	Thomas De La Garde GRISSELL (born in 1852 in Wales - died 25 Dec 1915 in Suffolk, ENG).
30	26 Feb 1916	Probate:	Father. London, ENG. To Cecil Henry GRISSELL and Frank de la Garde GRISSELL, Esq's. Effects £152,682.
30	8 Mar 1916	Overseas:	
30	15 Sep 1916	Death:	France.
		Burial:	Thiepval Memorial.
30	28 Oct 1916	Probate:	London, ENG. To Frank de la Garde GRISSELL, Esq. Effects £58,058.

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[Left £500 to the Royal Institute of British Architects for the benefit of the Institute's library.]
<http://archive.org/stream/cu31924015677085#page/n107/mode/2up>

Siblings:

Thomas de la Garde GRISSELL, born 1878 died 1970
 Lt-Col Suffolk Regt; Star, MID; served Gallipoli.

† Bernard Salwey GRISSELL, DSO, born 1879
 Lt-Col Norfolk Regt; KIA 19 April 1917; served Salonica.
 Married, his wife re-married (CUBITT)

Margaret Hope GRISSELL, born 1880 died 1933
 Did not marry.

Arthur D. GRISSELL, *born 1882 died 1896*

CWGC Register: Son of Thomas De la Garde Grissell, of Redisham Hall, Beccles, Suffolk.

Personal File: 339/46696.

Sources: Scottish War Memorials Project; Charterhouse Registers.

Memorials: Mickleham, Surrey War Memorial; Harrow School

Brothers: Youngest of 4.

Father's Occupation: AGRIC: Landed Gentry.

Living Sisters: 1.

Ranker 1914 +: London 28th Bn (Artists' Rifles) Pvte 4172.

Cause of Death: German Hand Grenade.

Empire/Overseas: Hong Kong. Work.

Occupation: ARCHITECT.

Higher Education: Royal College of Art.

Father's Status: DEAD: died 1915, Dec.

Mother's Status: DEAD: died 1888.

General Notes:

Personal File: 339/46696

From Harrow Roll of Honour:

Fourth and youngest son of Thomas de la Garde Grissell, of Redisham Hall, Beccles, Suffolk, and of Frances Adelaide Grissell.

Adopted architecture as a profession, serving his articles with Messrs Nicholson & Corlette. Studied at the Royal College of Art and was awarded the Diploma in Architecture; was elected an A.R.I.B.A. in 1913.

2nd Lieutenant Grissell, who, in 1913, had accepted a three years' engagement in Hong Kong, returned to England early in 1915, and enlisted in the Artists Rifles, subsequently receiving a commission in the Coldstream Guards. He was killed by the explosion of a German hand-grenade on September 15th 1916, after reaching the second objective during the Guards' advance.

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His medals sold at auction in 2004

Description

Pair: Lieutenant F. Grissell, Coldstream Guards

British War and Victory Medals (Lieut.), together with related I.D. disc, extremely fine (3) £180-220

Footnote

Francis Grissell, the son of T. de la G. Grissell of Redisham Hall, Beccles, Suffolk, was educated at Harrow, and qualified as architect in 1913, when as a recently appointed A.R.I.B.A., he accepted a three year engagement in Hong Kong.

He returned home in 1915 to enlist in the Artists Rifles and was subsequently commissioned into the Coldstream Guards in October of the same year. Grissell was killed by the explosion of a German hand-grenade on 15 September 1916, after reaching the second objective during the Guards' advance near Ginchy. He was 30 years old, has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial; one of his brothers, Lieutenant-Colonel B. S. Grissell, D.S.O., was killed in action near Gaza in the following year.

The action in which Grissell fell on 15 September 1916 was fought out near Ginchy on the Somme, the Coldstream Guards sustaining casualties of 40 Officers and 1326 other ranks. The engagement was subsequently featured in The Illustrated London News of 18 November 1916, an artist's impression of the Coldstreamers (or "Lily Whites") pressing forward under heavy machine-gun fire being accompanied by the following text:

'Several regiments of Guards, including the Coldstreams, the Grenadiers and the Irish, played a splendid part in the great battle of September 15, which resulted in the capture of Martinpuich and Courcellette and over 2300 prisoners. Our artist's drawing has been made from an officer's material just to hand. The ground in front of the German trenches, he says, was nothing else but shell-holes. There were three broken trees standing out above the mist, by which the line advanced. Originally they started shoulder to shoulder with bayonets at the charge in the good old style. Describing the same event, Mr. Philip Gibbs writes: 'The Guards had their full share in the fighting ... These splendid men so tall and proper, so hard and fine, went away as one might imagine the old knights and yeomen of England at Agincourt. For the first time in the history of the Coldstreamers, three battalions of them charged in line, great solid waves of men, as a fine sight as the world could show. Behind them were the Grenadiers, and, again behind these men the Irish. They had not gone more than 200 yards before they came under the enfilade fire of massed machine-guns ... Gaps were made in the ranks, but they closed up. The wounded did not call for help, but cheered on those who swept past and on, shouting "Go on, Lily Whites" - which is the name for the Coldstreamers - "get at 'em Lily Whites!" ... the Guards went on. Then they were checked by two lines of trenches, wired and defended by machine-guns and bombers ... The Guards took them by frontal assault full in the face of continual blasts of machine-gun bullets. There was hard and desperate fighting. The Germans defended themselves to the death ... By that time the Irish Guards had joined the others. All the Guards were together, and together they passed the trenches ... going steadily deeper into the enemy country until they were 2000 yards from their starting place ... They fought grandly.'

Lieutenant-Colonel J. V. Campbell, D.S.O., of the 3rd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, who rallied his Guardsmen with a hunting horn, and led them to the sunken road (Flers Road), was awarded a well-deserved V.C.; see Westlake's British Battalions on the Somme for a modern day photograph of the sunken road and further details.

Sold with a copy M.C., G.V.R. and 1914-15 Star trio, the latter with erased naming, mounted as worn, with related set of dress miniatures, in old leather case, the whole attributed to the recipient's brother, Lieutenant-Colonel T. de la G. Grissell, Suffolk Yeomanry, attached Suffolk Regiment; brief research included.

Also see Lot 1209 for other family awards.

<http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk/Mickleham-War-Memorials/MicklehamWM-StMichaelsWM-WWI.htm>