



Frederick Chaplin (or Chaplain) was born in 1898 at Lavendon. His parents were William Chaplin and Selina Jane Holmes, both born in Lavendon. They married in 1897 and went to live in Castle Road. William was brought up at Lower Farm and later apprenticed as a Shoe Maker (Rivetter), before becoming a Hay Tier. Selina was a Pillow Lace Maker. Frederick was their first born child, but by 1911 he had several brothers and sisters, including Arthur John (1901), William (1903), Francis Robert (1904) and Florence Ester Elizabeth (1909).

At some point Frederick's family moved to the Horse Shoe Yard, now long demolished. At the young age of 16 Frederick volunteered for service in March 1915 and two months later his father, William, also volunteered for service with the 8th Bedfordshire Regiment (despite his 39 years of age). William was subsequently wounded in action and invalided out of the Army as the following account describes:

CHAPLAIN, W., Private, 8th Bedfordshire Regt.
He volunteered in May 1915, and in February of the following year was drafted to the Western Front, where he took part in heavy fighting at Ypres, and was badly wounded in action on the Somme in September 1916. Invalided to England, he spent some time in hospital at Bristol before being discharged as medically unfit for further service, holding the 1914-15 Star, and the General Service and Victory Medals.
Horse Shoe Yard, Lavendon, Bucks. Z1625/A.



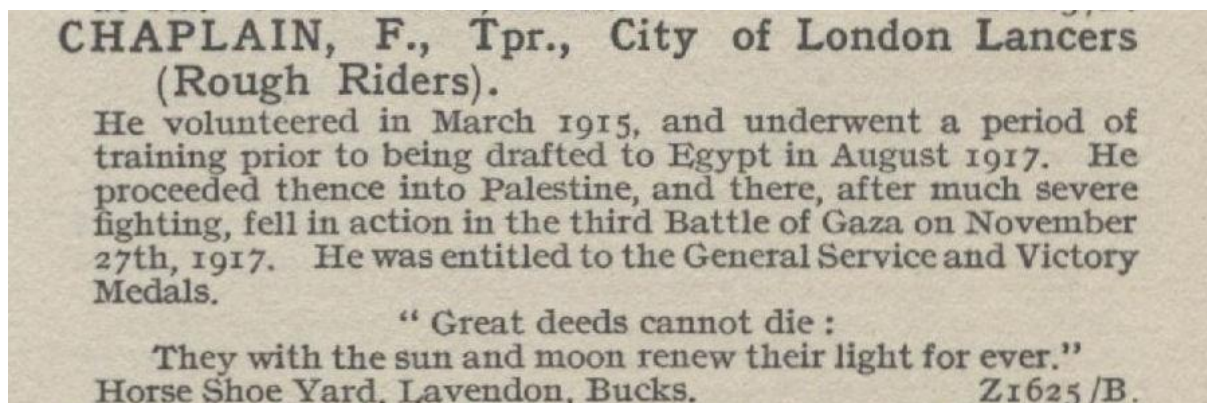
*Houses on the Horse Shoe Yard, now the Village Hall Car Park,
photo pre-1921 (war memorial absent).*

Frederick enlisted at Bradford into the City of London Yeomanry. He underwent training, doubtless given his young age, before heading to Egypt in August 1917. Even before the Great War began,

Egypt was occupied by the British Army which was intent on protecting the all-important Suez Canal. The latter was a vital supply route for troops from the British Empire – Australia, New Zealand and India – as well as supplies travelling to the European theatre. Turkish troops backed by Germany were massed in Palestine (now Israel), part of the Turkish Empire. In the early part of the war the British were forced to defend the Canal from the Turks and also resist attacks on Egypt from the west by Senussi Arabs.

In due course the British decided to make a move against the Turkish Forces who were intent upon interfering with the Canal. Thus, British Forces were strengthened and, along with troops from the Empire, were in a position to launch direct attacks on the Turkish troops. In terms of forces deployed, Palestine was then the second largest theatre of operations after the Western Front. The first two Battles of Gaza had taken place before Frederick's arrival in Egypt, but he was there in time for the Third Battle of Gaza in late October and early November 1917. More actions followed and these eventually resulted in the capture of Jerusalem in early December before the British Forces headed north and eastwards towards Syria.

Very severe fighting took place between 21st November and 8th December and Frederick fell in action. He never got to see the Jerusalem that he and his comrades were fighting for. He died on 27th November 1917 and was eventually buried in the Jerusalem War Cemetery. Ironically, it was less than a fortnight later that the Turks surrendered and the Allied forces gained their objective of occupying Jerusalem.

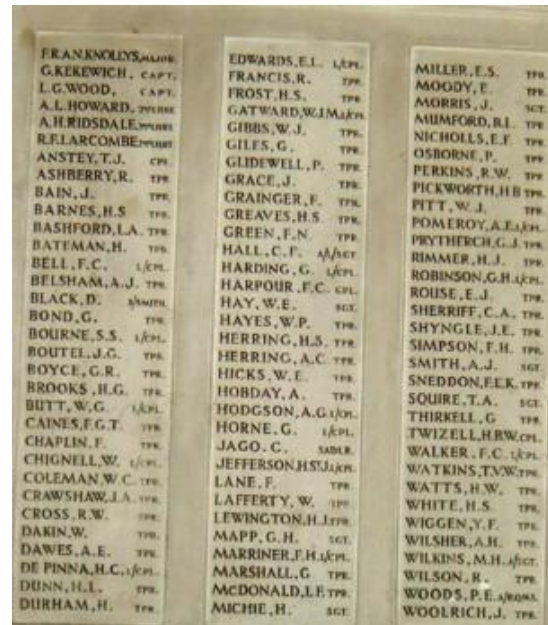


Left: The Jerusalem War Cemetery is a few miles to the north of the walled city at the north end of the Mount of Olives.

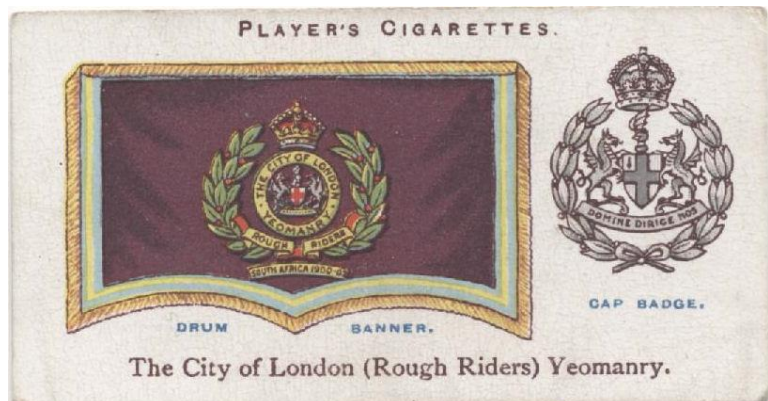
The cemetery was begun after the occupation of the city, with 270 burials, later enlarged to take graves from nearby smaller cemeteries and battlefields.

City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders) Memorial St. Bartholomew the Great Church, Smithfield, London EC1

To the glory of God and in proud and grateful memory of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers & Troopers of the City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders).
Who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War 1914-1918.



Above: Cap badge of the City of London Yeomanry



Above: The drum banner of the City of London Yeomanry

The "Rough Riders" nickname was taken from the US cavalry regiment that fought in the Spanish-American War. The London Regiment was formed in 1901 and had its headquarters at the Guildhall, later transferred to Finsbury Square. The Regiment joined the newly established Territorial Force in 1908 when it gained its title 'The 1st City of London Yeomanry (Rough Riders)'.