

FRED SADLER

Born: 14th October 1895, Ridlington¹

Enlisted: The Norfolk Regiment (Sergeant 22591)²



Medals: British War Medal Victory Medal Mentioned in Despatches
Oak Leaf³



Demobilised: Not known

Fred Sadler was born on the 14th October 1895, the second son of Robert and Rebecca Sadler's ten children, and baptised on the 13th December 1897 in Ridlington parish church (see Figure 1).

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Ridlington</i>						
in the County of <i>Norfolk</i> in the Year 18 <i>97</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1897. December 13 th Born Date No. 3264/95	<i>Fred</i> son of	<i>Robert</i> & <i>Rebecca</i>	<i>Sadler</i>	<i>Ridlington</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Wm. Lovisland</i> <i>Rector</i>

Figure 1: Extract from the Ridlington Baptisms Register, 1897

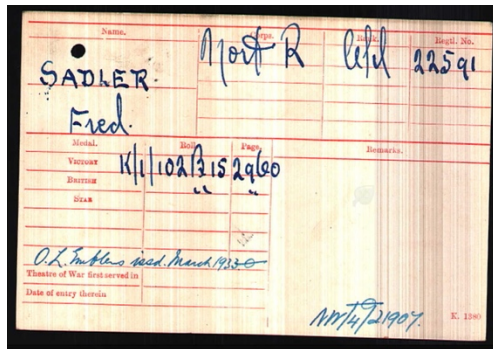
The British Army WW1 Service Records 1914-1920 do not appear to have survived for Fred, but we do have copies of his Medal Roll record and index card, which show that he was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal (see Figure 2).⁴

¹ FreeBMD, Quarter to December 1895, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.56 (www.freebmd.org.uk); England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

² Parliamentary County of Norfolk, Northern Division. Absent Voters List 1918 (www.findmypast.co.uk).

³ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).



Name: SADLER, Fred		Regt. No. 22591	
Rank: Corporal		Remarks:	
Service No. K/110213152960		Date of entry service: 11/11/1916	
Date of entry service: 11/11/1916		Date of entry service: 11/11/1916	
Date of entry service: 11/11/1916		Date of entry service: 11/11/1916	

Figure 2: Medal Roll Index Card for Fred Sadler

From the information contained in the Medal and Award Rolls, it can be ascertained that Fred served in the 9th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, where he attained the rank of Corporal, and in the 12th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment. At the time of the issue of the British War Medal and Victory Medal in 1921, Fred's rank had risen to Sergeant.⁵

On the 23rd November 1916 Fred was listed as 'Wounded' on the Casualty List issued by the War Office.⁶ It appears that Fred was injured on the 19th October 1916 and the entry in the Norfolk Regiment Casualty Book (p.91B) records that Lance Corporal Fred Sadler was admitted to 23 General Hospital, Etaples, France (see Figure 2) with a gunshot wound to his left leg. He was then transferred back to England to the City of London War Hospital, Epsom on the 23rd October 1916.⁷



Figure 2: 23 General Hospital, Etaples (Australian War Memorial)⁸

It is not known when Fred re-joined the Norfolk Regiment, as on the 24th December 1918, Fred appeared in the London Gazette, having been *Mentioned in Despatches* whilst serving in the 12th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment in France. In recognition of this, Fred was issued with an oak leaf emblem in March 1933, which would have been worn on the ribbon of the Victory Medal.⁹

⁵ UK, World War 1 Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁶ Record details for Fred Sadler, *Forces War Records* (www.forces-war-records.co.uk).

⁷ *The Norfolk Regiment Casualty and Sickness Book*, Norfolk Museums Service, The Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum, Shirehall, Market Avenue, Norwich (<http://thecasualtybook.co.uk>).

⁸ See <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/ART19596>.

⁹ British Army WW1 Medal Roll Index Cards, 1914-1920 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

Further research into Fred's family reveals that his father, Robert Sadler, was born on the 8th August 1865 in Honing, the son of James and Hannah Sadler, and baptised on the 22nd August 1869, in Honing parish church.¹⁰ Robert married Rebecca Bacon in 1893.¹¹ She was born in Honing in 1872,¹² the daughter of Charles and Mary Bacon.¹³ In 1901, Charles and Mary Bacon were living at Raw Hall, Wood Norton; Charles was a farmer.¹⁴ He died in 1901, aged 70, and is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁵ Mary Bacon continued to live at Raw Hall with her son Robert John Bacon and his family.¹⁶

Robert Sadler died suddenly in 1922, aged 56, and there was an inquest into his death, which returned a verdict of *death from heart failure consequent on over exertion*. He had been trussing hay from 5am on Saturday morning with his son, Fred, when he collapsed and died shortly before 12 noon.¹⁷ Robert is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁸ Rebecca Sadler died in 1955, aged 82, in Hoxne, Suffolk, but is buried in Wood Norton.¹⁹

The 1911 Census for Tunstead records that Robert (aged 45, and a farm labourer) and Rebecca Sadler had been married for 17 years, with nine children.²⁰ Fred is aged 15 and a farm labourer, and his eight siblings are:

George	Born 7 th October 1894, Honing. ²¹ In the 1911 census, he is aged 16, and a farm labourer. He died on the 19 th February 1916, aged 20, in Carlton, New York, USA. ²²
Robert	Born 2 nd October 1896, Ridlington. ²³ In the 1911 census, he is aged 14, and a farm labourer. He died in 1912, aged 16. ²⁴
Stanley	Born 19 th February 1898, Ridlington. In the 1911 census, he is aged 13, and a farm labourer. He enlisted with the Royal Navy in WW1, and was killed on the 15 th August 1918, when <i>HMS Scott</i> was torpedoed off the Dutch coast.

¹⁰ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1865, Tunstead, Vol.4b, p.45* (www.freebmd.org.uk); 1911 census, Tunstead (Schedule 47) (www.ancestry.co.uk); Baptisms, Honing, 1869 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹¹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1893, Smallburgh Vol.4b, p.105* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹² FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1872, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.51* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

¹³ 1881 census, Honing (p.12) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁴ 1901 census, Wood Norton (p.1) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁵ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1901 (p.130).

¹⁶ 1911 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 195) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

¹⁷ A report of the inquest was published in the Eastern Daily Press under the heading *Death from Over Exertion*.

¹⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to March 1922, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.120* (www.freebmd.org.uk); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Burials, 1922 (p.131).

¹⁹ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1898 (p.132).

²⁰ 1911 census, Tunstead, (Schedule 47) (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²¹ 1911 census, Tunstead (Schedule 47) (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1894, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.55* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Norfolk, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1919 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²² U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-current (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1896, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.64* (www.freebmd.org.uk); Norfolk, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1919 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁴ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1912, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.316* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

Arthur	Born 4 th June 1899, Ridlington. ²⁵ In the 1911 census, he is aged 11, and at school. He served with the Royal Navy in WW1, and married Ivy Alice Pointen in October 1929 in Wood Norton. ²⁶ He died in 1985, aged 85, in Norwich. ²⁷
Edward	Born 1901, Salhouse. ²⁸ In the 1911 census, he is aged 9, and at school. Edward served with the Royal Marine Light Infantry Division in WW1 and emigrated to Australia in 1922. ²⁹ He died in 1976, aged 75, in Australia. ³⁰
Elsie Mary	Born 1903, Salhouse. ³¹ In the 1911 census, she is aged 7, and at school. She married George Bacon in 1924. ³² She died in 1982, aged 79, in Suffolk. ³³
Sidney	Born 1905, Tunstead. ³⁴ In the 1911 census, he is aged 5. He spent time working in Canada in the 1920s and 1930s. ³⁵
Charles	Born 1907, Tunstead. ³⁶ In the 1911 census, Charles is aged 3. He died in 1993, aged 85. ³⁷

Robert and Rebecca's last child, Herbert William Sadler, was born on the 30th August 1912.³⁸ He married Gladys M. Warnes in 1937.³⁹ Herbert died in 2011, aged 99.⁴⁰

Fred married Anna Maria Tebble on the 1st July 1916 in Wood Norton parish church (Stanley and Elsie Mary Sadler were witnesses).⁴¹ An article written by the Rector for the 1st August 1916 edition of *All Saints, Wood Norton, Church Magazine*,⁴² records that:

²⁵ FreeBMD, *Quarter to September 1899, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.65* (www.freebmd.org.uk); UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk); England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁶ UK, Royal Navy Registers of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939 (www.ancestry.co.uk); FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1929, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.253* (www.freebmd.org.uk); *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1916 (p.105).

²⁷ England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

²⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1901, St. Faiths, Vol.4b, p.105* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

²⁹ UK, Royal Marines Registers of Services Index, 1842-1925 (www.ancestry.co.uk); Victoria, Australia, Assisted and Unassisted Passenger Lists, 1839-1923 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁰ Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³¹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1903, St. Faiths, Vol.4b, p.97* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³² FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1924, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.626* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³³ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1982, Ipswich, Vol.10, p.2308* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁴ England and Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915, *Quarter to December 1905, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.50* (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁵ Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁶ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1907, Smallburgh, Vol.4b, p.49* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

³⁷ England and Wales, Death Index, 1916-2005, *Registration August 1993, North Walsham*.

³⁸ FreeBMD, *Quarter to December 1912, Aylsham, Vol.4b, p.150* (www.freebmd.org.uk); England and Wales, Death Index, 2007-2015 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

³⁹ FreeBMD, *Quarter to June 1937, Walsingham, Vol.4b, p.639* (www.freebmd.org.uk).

⁴⁰ England and Wales, Death Index, 2007-2015 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴¹ *Transcript and Index to Wood Norton, Norfolk, Parish Registers*, compiled by Keith and Shirley Howell (February 2000), Marriages, 1916 (p.103).

⁴² Article held by the author.

During tea, the children of the 3rd class presented their Teacher, Mrs. Fred Sadler, with a present, which took the form of a plated butter knife, on the occasion of her marriage. Mrs. Sadler expressed her thanks and great pleasure at receiving the present from the little children.

The marriage register describes Fred as a Lance Corporal, and that he was living in Walton, Suffolk at the time of his marriage.

In the 1921 census for Wood Norton⁴³, Fred and his wife Anna are living with her parents, Bridge Robert and Maria Tebble. Fred was a farm labourer, in the employ of Mr R. Bacon, at Fulmodestone.

In the 1939 Register, Fred is living at 4 Caldervale Road, Wandsworth Metropolitan District, with his wife. His occupation is described as bricklayer.⁴⁴ Anna Maria died in Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex, on the 7th October 1974, aged 81.⁴⁵ Fred sadly died a few days later, on the 13th October 1974, in Westcliffe-on-Sea, aged 79.⁴⁶

Fred, Stanley, Arthur and Edward Sadler are all commemorated on the war memorial in All Saints, Wood Norton, which records the servicemen who served and died, as well as those who survived, the WW1 conflict.

⁴³ 1921 census, Wood Norton (Schedule 200) (www.findmypast.co.uk).

⁴⁴ 1939 England and Wales Register, Wandsworth MD, Enumeration District AXBY, Schedule 137 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴⁵ England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, *Quarter to December 1974, Southend on Sea, Vol.9, p.2601* (www.ancestry.co.uk); England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).

⁴⁶ England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, *Quarter to December 1974, Southend on Sea, Vol.9, p.2610* (www.ancestry.co.uk); England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966, 1973-1995 (www.ancestry.co.uk).