

SHEFFIELD'S V.C.'s.

Happy Comrades at King's Garden Party.

Among the V.C.'s present at the King's Garden Party on Saturday was Sergeant James Firth, V.C., of the 2nd Duke of Wellington's Regiment, whose home is at 193, Douglas Road, Parkwood Springs, Sheffield. Sergeant Firth served in the South African War, and his battalion expects to proceed to Ireland to-day. He travelled up to London by the same train as Sergeant Loosmore, V.C., but the two heroes had never previously met, and when there was a recognition and introductions on St. Pancras Station platform there was much warm handshaking and mutual congratulation. The two Sheffield V.C.'s found many interests in common, and spent the day together. Their physical disabilities prevented their joining in the procession to Buckingham Palace, but, with others who were unable to walk, they were conveyed in motor-cars to the memorable gathering, and both were greatly impressed by the evident determination of the King and other members of the Royal Family to make their warrior guests thoroughly at their ease. It was the third time that Sergeant Firth had had the honour of meeting the King, and he was gratified to learn from His Majesty that he had not forgotten him.

SHEFFIELD V.C.'S WILL.

The Disposal of his Medals and Relics.

The late Mr. James Firth, V.C., of 193, Douglas Road, Parkwood Springs, Sheffield, and formerly of Swalwell, Durham, formerly sergeant in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1900 for conspicuous bravery in the Boer War, and who died on the 29th May last, left estate valued for probate at £359. The testator left to his son Alleyne Gatehouse, on attaining majority, his Victoria Cross, his South African medals, and other souvenirs, and further interesting relics to his son Cecil James. He further directed that his wearing apparel should, on his decease, be sealed up in the presence of both executors, and handed to his son Cecil when he shall attain majority.

DEATH OF SHEFFIELD'S FIRST V.C.

The death occurred at his residence, 193, Douglas Road, Parkwood Springs, Sheffield, of Sergeant James Firth, V.C., after a long and painful illness.

He served in the South African war with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, and won the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery, on February 24th, 1900, when he rescued two wounded comrades under very heavy fire from the Boer guns. He was himself severely wounded in the performance of his heroic deed, resulting in the loss of his left eye. He was the first Sheffielder to win the V.C. which was presented to him by the late King Edward at St. James's Palace on July 25, 1901.

The funeral will take place at Burngreave Cemetery on June 2, at 2.45, with military honours, preceded by service at St. Michael's, Deepsend.

DISTINGUISHED VETERANS

SHEFFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH TUESDAY 31ST MAY 1921

Swalwell is justly proud that one of its late residents, Sergt. James Firth, should have won the Victoria Cross for bravery on the field of battle.

SUNDERLAND ECHO TUESDAY 25TH JUNE 1901

It has been decided to place a tablet in the Swalwell Board Schools to perpetuate the memory of the gallant deeds of Sergeant James Firth, a former pupil at the school, upon whom was recently conferred the V.C. for valour on the battlefield.

SUNDELAND ECHO WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 1901

HOLDER OF V.C.

SHEFFIELD RESIDENT LEAVES MEDALS TO SON.

Mr. James Firth, V.C., 193, Douglas road, Parkwood Springs, Sheffield, and formerly of Swalwell, Durham, formerly Sergeant, Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1900 for conspicuous bravery in the Boer War and who died 29 May, left estate valued for probate at £359 15s. 5d.

Testator leaves to his son, Alleyne Gatehouse Firth, on attaining majority, his Victoria Cross and his South African medals.

SHEFFIELD TELEGRAPH SATURDAY 20TH MAY 1922



firth vc.pdf