

Mr H. Smith

The various discussions in the newspapers about such topics as who fired the first shot, and who the last in the Great War remind us that a Freshwater resident can claim the honour of carrying the first despatch. Mr H. Smith, of Middleton, was in the 4th Dragoon Guards, the regiment which contained the man who fired the first shot. Mr Smith was on his way to Headquarters carrying the despatch announcing the sighting of the enemy, when that shot was fired.

The 4th Dragoons claim three other firsts, besides that of the first shot, these are: first to inflict a casualty, first in action, and first prisoners. Mr Smith went through the Great War from the first day to the last, and entered the Rhineland with the Army of Occupation. He was fortunate enough to come through completely unwounded.

Source: From a contemporary newspaper.