



William Cluff

William Cluff was born in Hepston, Northamptonshire in 1877. His parents were William & Emily Cluff

The Family

In the 1901 Census, William is living with his mother and two sisters in Peterborough. He is employed as a "blacksmith's labourer".

In 1904, William marries Gertrude Mary Curtis in Peterborough.

By 1911, the Cluff family is now living in Factory Street, Desborough. William is an "ironstone labourer".

By the time of his enlistment in 1915, the family is living in Corby. William is a "furnace labourer". The couple had 5 children, Elizabeth, Daniel, John, Stanley & William.

Military Service

William enlists in Kettering in 1915.

With his enlistment papers is the following reference:-

"I, Sydney W Preston employed William Cluff for 1 year & found him honest sober & capable of riding & driving single & double and a good man to look after my horses."

*Sydney W Preston
Kings Arms
Jan 29 1915*

William was a Pioneer/Driver in the 18th Signal Coy. Royal Engineers (60954). He served in France/Flanders.

William was killed in action on 18th July 1916. He is buried at Suzanne Military Cemetery No.3.

The village of Suzanne was taken over by British troops in the summer of 1915, lost in March 1918, and recaptured by the 3rd Australian Division on the following 26th August.



Suzanne Military Cemetery No. 3 was originally a French Cemetery (Cimetiere Mixte No. 3 de Suzanne); but after the Armistice the British graves were concentrated into it from the battlefields north of the Somme, and the French graves were removed.

There are now 139 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war here. Of these, 42 are unidentified. There is also 1 German burial here.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lest We Forget

William Cluff
of the Royal Engineers.

d.18th July 1916