



William Mann

William Mann was born in Gretton in 1882. His parents were Noah Mann (b.Kidford, Sussex) and Frances Mann (nee Wyman) born in Gretton. Noah and Frances were married in 1879.

Family History

In the 1881 Census, Noah & Frances are living in Gretton with their daughter Jane (2). Noah is employed as an engine cleaner (factory labourer). William is born in 1882, but his father Noah dies in 1889 in Yorkshire.

In 1891, Frances, together with her son William and daughter Amelia is living with her parents William & Hannah Wyman in Gretton. William is listed as a general labourer. Frances is listed as a tailoress.

By 1901, Frances has remarried in 1892. Her husband, Edward Chambers (b.Stamford), William & Amelia Mann, and four Chambers children are living in Netherfield, Nottinghamshire. Edward Chambers is employed as a railway guard; William Mann is employed as a railway engine stoker.

By 1911, William is working as a farm labourer in Sleaford. He is married to Susannah (b.Spalding) and has an adopted daughter, also named Susannah (age 10).

Military History

William Mann's service record has been lost, however it is known that he served as a Private (9447) in the 1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment in France.

According to the Lincolnshire Echo of 21st July 1915, Private W Mann (9447) is listed as having been wounded on 4th July 1915.

The Lincolnshire Echo of 6th December 1915 reports that Acting Corporal W Mann (9447) was wounded on the 25th or 26th November 1915. According to the Battalion's records there were no reported casualties on the 26th November but the Battalion came under shell fire on 25th November with one casualty; this may have been William Mann.

It is recorded that Acting Corporal William Mann died of wounds on 2nd December 1915. He was 34 years of age.



William Mann is buried at the Etaples Military Cemetery and commemorated on both the Gretton War Memorial and the Sleaford War Memorial.

During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern or the southern battlefields. In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals, which included eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot, could deal with 22,000 wounded or sick. In September 1919, ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained.

The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, the earliest dating from May 1915. 35 of these burials are unidentified.

Hospitals were again stationed at Etaples during the Second World War and the cemetery was used for burials from January 1940 until the evacuation at the end of May 1940. After the war, a number of graves were brought into the cemetery from other French burial grounds. Of the 119 Second World War burials, 38 are unidentified.

Etaples Military Cemetery also contains 662 Non Commonwealth burials, mainly German, including 6 unidentified. There are also now 5 Non World War service burials here. The cemetery, the largest Commission cemetery in France, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission/Gretton Local History Society

Lest We Forget

William Mann
of the Lincolnshire Regiment

d. 2nd December 1915