



Thomas William Wilson

Thomas William Wilson was born in Corby in 1882 to parents William Wilson of Corby and Ellen Wilson (originally from Weldon).

Family

In the 1881 Census, William was listed as an “agricultural labourer” and living with Ellen at the Countess of Cardigan’s Farm Lodge.

By 1901 the couple were living in Deene with son Thomas William and a daughter Edith (born in Glapthorn). William was listed as “Head Gamekeeper on Estate” with Thomas William’s occupation listed as “saddler’s apprentice”. The family were living at The Shop, Deene.

In April 1909 Thomas William Wilson married Mabel Kate Lilley. Mabel was from Norfolk. The couple were married in Essendine, Rutland.

In the 1911 Census, Thomas William and Mabel were still in Essendine living at the Keeper’s Lodge. Thomas William was recorded as “Gamekeeper on Estate”. The couple had a son George William Wilson born in 1910.

Another son Thomas Roland was born in 1911 and a daughter Nancy Marie was born in 1913. Both children were born in Essendine.

Military Service

Thomas Wilson attested in Stamford on 12th December 1915. He was called-up on 18th July 1916. He gave his occupation as saddler (although gamekeeper was initially written but crossed out).

Thomas Wilson served as a Sapper (212162) in the Corps of Royal Engineers.

His record shows that he was trained as a harness maker.

Sapper Thomas Wilson landed in France on 22nd April 1917. On 14th October 1917 he was assigned to the 438 Field Company.

The 438th Field Company was one of eight Territorial Field Companies formed. The 438th Field Company, 1st (Cheshire) Field Company joined the 3rd Division on 22nd December 1914. It was to see active service on the Western Front throughout the War.



It is recorded that Sapper Thomas Wilson died of wounds on 1st June 1918. He had been injured during an air raid.

The Grantham Journal of 22nd June 1918 relates:-

Killed By Aeroplane Bomb

The sad intelligence reached Mrs. Wilson of the Porter's Lodge, Deene, on Friday week, that her only son, Sapper Thos. Wm. Wilson R.E., had been killed by an aeroplane bomb. A widow and three children are left.

Sapper Thomas Wilson is buried at the Sandpits British Cemetery, Fouquereuil.

The cemetery was begun by XIII Corps at the outset of the German advance in April 1918, and continued to be used by them until September 1918.

There are now 394 First World War burials in the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
The Grantham Journal

Lest We Forget

Thomas William Wilson
of the Royal Engineers

d. 1st June 1918

April 2016 Copy