



William Cluff

William Cluff was born in 1876 in Helpston nr. Peterborough to William and Emily Cluff. He was baptised on 31st December 1876.

Family

In 1881 William and Emily were living in Station Road, Helpston with their children Sarah, George, Esther, William, Emily and Elizabeth. William Snr. was employed in a paper mill.

By 1891 William and Mary had two more daughters, Agnes and Hannah. George Cluff was employed as a plumber's apprentice, whilst William Cluff jnr. was an agricultural labourer.

In 1901 widow Emily Cluff, her son William and two daughters Emily and Hannah were living in Providential Place, Peterborough. Emily and Hannah were employed as domestic servants. William was a "blacksmith's labourer".

William married Gertrude Mary Curtis in Peterborough on 13th October 1904. William's occupation at time of marriage was "cellarman". By 1911 William and Gertrude were living in Factory Street, Desborough. They had three children, Elizabeth, Daniel and John. William was employed as an "ironstone labourer".

By the time William enlisted in 1915 the family were living in "Rosedale", Weldon Road, Corby. They had two more children Stanley and William. William's occupation was "furnace labourer".

Military Service

William Cluff enlisted in the Corps of Royal Engineers. He attested on 30th January 1915 in Kettering.

Interestingly, within William's enlistment documents is the following note :-

"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
King's Arms
Jan 29 1915*



William Cluff (60954) served with the 18th Signal Coy. Royal Engineers. His rank on some documents was Pioneer, on others as Driver.

William's medal card indicates that he arrived in France on 25th July 1915.

William Cluff was killed in action on 18th July 1916 having served in France/Flanders. He is buried in the 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.

References

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lest We Forget

William Cluff
of the Royal Engineers

d. 18th July 1916

May 2016 Copy