



Wilfred Gray

Wilfred Gray was born in Corby on 21st July 1898. He was baptised on 14th August 1898. His parents were John Gray of Stanion and Sarah Ellen Gray (nee Rowlatt) of Corby.

Family

At the time of Wilfred's birth John and Sarah were living in Corby. John was employed as an ironstone labourer.

In the 1901 Census, John and Sarah were living in Argyll Street, Kettering. John's occupation was listed as groom & domestic gardener. The couple had two children, both born in Corby, Eva and Wilfred. Also living with the Gray family were two boarders, Albert Hine and George Price, both employed by Midland Railway.

By the 1911 Census, the couple were still living in Argyll Street and had a second daughter, Audrey. John is still a gardener and daughter Eva a dressmaker's apprentice. Wilfred and Audrey were recorded as being at school. A boarder, Arthur Wooldridge, employed on the railway is also resident.

Military Service

Wilfred Gray served as a Private (G/23195) in the 6th (Service) Battalion, Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

The 6th Battalion was formed in August 1914, joining the 37th Brigade of the 12th Division. The Battalion mobilised and landed in Boulogne in May 1915. It was to service on the Western Front for the duration of the War.

It is recorded that Private Wilfred Gray died on wounds on 22nd August 1918 in 10 General Hospital, Rouen. Number 10 General Hospital had been based in Rouen since October 1914 (it eventually closed in May 1919).

According to the Battalion diary, the 6th Battalion were in the line near Morlancourt around the time of Private Gray's death, although the exact date he sustained his injuries is currently unknown.

Private Wilfred Gray is buried at the St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city.



Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot.

A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever.

In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920.

Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lest We Forget

Wilfred Gray
of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)

d. 22nd August 1918

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