



## William John Rowlatt

William John Rowlatt was born in Corby in 1893. His father was Charles James Rowlatt from Corby, his mother Mary Elizabeth Rowlatt (nee Williams) from Lincolnshire.

In the 1881 Census, Charles Rowlatt, a butcher, was boarding with farmer Edward Chapman, his wife Mary Chapman and their niece from Wrangle, Lincolnshire, Mary Elizabeth Williams.

Charles and Mary were married in Corby on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1887.

### The Family

In 1901, the family were living in Main Street, Corby. Charles Rowlatt was a Butcher's Manager. The family had three children, Edward George, Charles William and William John.

The family were living in the High Street, Corby in 1911. Edward was employed as a farm assistant, Charles jnr. as a butcher & farm assistant, with William (18) employed as a butcher.

### Military Service

William John Rowlatt served as a Private (TF/201788) in the 13<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion (3<sup>rd</sup> South Down), Royal Sussex Regiment.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion was formed on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1914. It mobilized and landed in France in 1915. In July 1915 it joined the 116<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 39<sup>th</sup> Division.

Private William John Rowlatt was killed in action on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918. His body was never recovered. The German army was driving the British and allies back across the former Somme battlefields during this period.

Private Rowlatt is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial and the Corby War Memorial.

The Pozieres Memorial relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918.



The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names, The Durham Light Infantry with approximately 600 names, the Machine Gun Corps with over 500, The Manchester Regiment with approximately 500 and The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery with over 400 names.

The memorial encloses Pozieres British Cemetery, Plot II of which contains original burials of 1916, 1917 and 1918, carried out by fighting units and field ambulances. The remaining plots were made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields immediately surrounding the cemetery, the majority of them of soldiers who died in the Autumn of 1916 during the latter stages of the Battle of the Somme, but a few represent the fighting in August 1918.

There are now 2,758 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,380 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There is also 1 German soldier buried here.

The cemetery and memorial were designed by W.H. Cowlshaw, with sculpture by Laurence A. Turner. The memorial was unveiled by Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien on 4 August 1930.

### Reference

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

***Lest We Forget***

**William John Rowlatt**  
of the Royal Sussex Regiment

d. 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918