

WILLIAM THOMAS KNIGHT

1915

Born	Bagshot cJan-Mar 1892
Parents	Thomas Edwin and Clara Ann Knight of Holly Grove Lodge, Great Park, Windsor
Other information	Baptised Bagshot 10 Apr 1892. 1911 Census shows him living at Shockerwick House, Bath home of Charles Morley (1847-1917) working as the youngest footman of 13 servants. He must then have moved to live and work at Tottenham House because this was the address (and Tidworth Camp) given when probate was granted to his father (effects £210-5-2d).
Died	9 Aug 1915 Killed in Action (Lance Corporal)
Buried	No known grave; commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli

Military Service

1914

Oct	Enlisted Devizes (No. 9297) with Whitbread and Stroud Joined 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment – 5 Wilts (A Company) – New Army
Dec	5 Wilts to Cirencester for its initial training and billeted in town

1915

23 Feb	Moved to Inkerman Barracks, Cowshot near Woking Training – route marches and rifle practice
27 Jun	Orders received to be ready for mobilisation (in 40 Bde 13th Division)
30 Jun	Marched to Brookwood Station for train journey to Avonmouth near Bristol. Embarked 3.15 pm
1 Jul	Sailed at 8.50 pm on SS Franconia (5 Wilts: 30 officers and 970 other ranks) for Alexandria
8 Jul	Briefly in Grand Harbour Valetta, Malta
11 Jul	Arrived Alexandria
15 Jul	Sailed for island of Lemnos and anchored in Mudros Bay: sailed for Cape Helles aboard SS Osmanieh (Bn HQ, A and C Companies)
17 Jul	5 Wilts ashore complete at Cape Helles. Each man issued with 100 extra rounds of ammunition, a blanket, waterproof and rations to last 24 hours. Heat, flies and terrible shortage of water
19 Jul	5.30 am Took over Hampshire Cut and Essex Knoll trenches from 4 th Battalion South Wales Borderers (SWB). Much sniping
21 Jul	7 am 4 SWB relieved 5 Wilts – in divisional reserve; rugged gullies covered by dense and prickly scrub; much shelling
29 Jul	13th Division relieved by 29th Division and withdrawn to Gully Beach; swam in sea
1 30 Jul	8.30 pm Embarked in minesweepers and destroyers (tightly packed)
31 Jul	Arrived back on Lemnos: plan to break deadlock with new landing at Suvla Bay
3 Aug	11 am 5 Wilts embarked on HMT Sarnia
4 Aug	Landed at Anzac Cove
9 Aug	Killed in Action (Battle of Sari Bair, Gallipoli)

Medals: 1915 Star, War Medal (WM), Victory Medal (VM)



1915 Star, War and Victory Medals

(All nine received the War and Victory Medals)

Family

Parents: Thomas Edwin Knight (b 1867 East Grinstead, Sussex d 1937 Hastings) married Clara Ann Hallett (b 1860 Rotherfield, Sussex d 1929). Address 1901 and 1911: Keepers Lodge, St Leonards Dale, Windsor. Thomas Edwin's occupation 1911: King's game keeper

Children (3): William Thomas (b c1892 living with parents 1901), Arthur John (b 1898), Florence Fanny (b 1901)

Sources

CWGC, Medal Card, History of 5th (Service) Battalion Wiltshire Regiment 1914-1919 by Paula Perry, Census 1901, 1911, Maggi Tucker, National Probate Records

HENRY FRANK WHITBREAD

1915

Born	Savernake c1886
Parents	Sydney and Hannah Whitbread
Address	Crabtree Cottages, Savernake
Other information	Farm boy (1901) then farm labourer
Died	Killed in Action Gallipoli (Corporal) 10 Aug 1915
Buried	No known grave; commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli



Crabtree Cottages cFirst World War

Military Service

1914	Enlisted Devizes (No. 9295) with Knight and Stroud Assumed he joined 5 th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment – 5 Wilts (New Army 13 th Division) on its formation
Aug	5 Wilts formed at Devizes
Sep	5 Wilts 40 Bde (13 th Division) concentrated Chiseldon and Cirencester
1915	
Feb	Moved to Woking
May	Moved to Bisley
7 Jun	Warned for service in Mediterranean
13 Jun	First transports left for Alexandria
4 Jul	All units moved to Mudros (port on island of Lemnos)
6-16 Jul	Landed Cape Helles and relieved 29th Division
End Jul	Returned to Mudros
3-5 Aug	Landed ANZAC Cove
6-10 Aug	Battle of Sari Bair, Gallipoli (5 Wilts in left covering force – heavy casualties in Turkish attack 10 Aug); 10 Aug Killed in Action

Family

Parents: Sydney Whitbread (b 1860 Preshute, address 67 Pewsey Road Preshute 1871, 120 Pewsey Road 1881 d 1949) married Hannah Dowdell (b 1860 Overton d 18 Dec 1939 buried St Katharine's) 1882 in Overton Wilts. Address 1891-1893 was Snail Hill (possibly now Snail Cottage). After that it was 35 Great Lodge or Great Lodge Bottom 1901. Sometime about 1910 they moved to Crabtree Cottages. Sydney was a labourer and/or shepherd

Children (13): Rosa (bapt 17 Oct 1882), Sarah Maud (bapt 14 Sep 1884 married Christopher E Gay; they had 2 children, Sydney and Dorothy), Henry Frank (b 1886 bapt 13 Jun 1886), Andrew George (bapt 5 Feb 1888. Served Great War and lost leg), Lilian Emily Louise (bapt 9 Feb 1890), Edith Kate (bapt 21 Feb 1892), Walter John (bapt 19 Nov 1893), Ada Winifred (bapt 21 Feb 1895 AN 610 married Edward G Dash; they had one child William EG Dash who married Audrey Martin, living in Swindon), Mary Annie (b reg Oct-Dec 1897 possibly 27 Aug 1897 bapt 17 Oct 1897 AN 611), Elsie Gertrude (b reg Jan-Mar 1900 possibly 13 Dec 1899 bapt 11 Mar 1900 AN 612), Sidney 'Charles' (b 11 Feb 1902 bapt 27 Apr 1902 AN NK), Arthur William (b 28 Dec 1904 bapt 3 Apr 1904 AN 622) and Ernest 'Harry' (bapt 3 Nov 1907).

Noel Shuttleworth (2013) recalled that when he moved to Crabtree in 1963 there were 3 Whitbreads still living there – George, Charles and Harry (brothers of Henry). The last to leave was Harry in about 1975. He went to live in Swindon. Charlie and Harry were both woodsmen. A niece visited occasionally.

Sources

Medal Card, St Katharine's Church Baptism and Burial Registers, St Katharine's School Admissions Register (AN No), Census 1901 and 1911, Parish Register, Maggi Tucker, Noel Shuttleworth, Crabtree Cottages

RENFORD EARLE OSWALD STROUD

1915

Born Oct-Dec 1896 possibly 11 Oct at Durley
Parents Edwin Earle and Alice Maud Stroud of Durley
Address 9 Durley, Savernake
School St Katharine's School (AN 494)
Other information Probably apprentice carpenter under his father at Tottenham House
Died Died of Wounds 6 Sep 1915 Alexandria
Buried Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery



"The young fellow was universally respected" Marlborough Times 24 Sep 1915

Alice Stroud and her children outside 9 Durley 1903/1904
(L-R Victor, Renford, Amy, Evelyn and Edward in her arms)

Military Service

1914 Enlisted Devizes (No. 9299) 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment – 5 Wilts with Whitbread and Knight. He was probably transferred to 8th Battalion Welch Regiment (No. 27139) 13th Division Pioneer Battalion (New Army) because of his carpentry skills.
Assumes that he joined when 5 Wilts and 8 Welch (13th Division) were formed.

Aug 8 Welch formed at Cardiff
Oct 8 Welch joined 40 Bde at Chiseldon
Dec Bournemouth

1915

5	Jan	Converted to Pioneer Battalion
	Feb	Moved to North Camp Aldershot

Jun 7 - warned for service in Mediterranean; 15 - embarked Avonmouth for Alexandria

Jul 4 - all units moved to Mudros (port on island of Lemnos); 6-16 - landed Cape Helles and relieved 29th Division; end Jul returned to Mudros

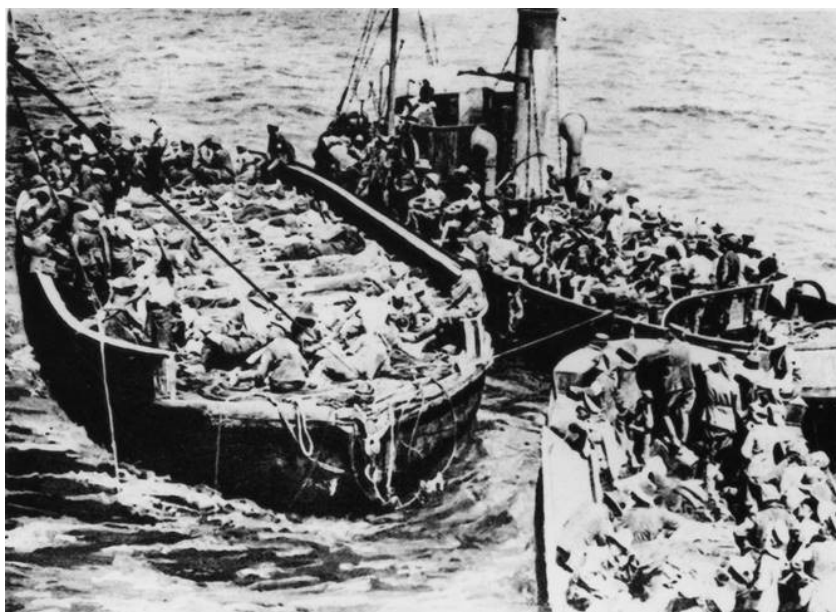
Aug 3-5 - landed ANZAC Cove; 6-10 - battle of Sari Bair; 7 - battle of Russell's Top; 27-28 - battle of Hill 60, **Gallipoli**

Sep 8 Welch transferred to Suvla Bay (Stroud was wounded in Aug)

Based on experience of others it might have taken 3 days to be evacuated to the hospital ship and then 6 days to the hospital in Alexandria

6 Sep Died of Wounds probably in 15 General Hospital Alexandria

Medals: 1915 Star, WM, VM



Wounded being evacuated to hospital ship, Suvla Bay in 117 degrees F

Family

Parents: Edwin Earle Stroud (b c1869 d 1950) married Alice Maud Whitbread (b c1871 d 1918) at St Katharine's Church on 31 Mar 1894. Edwin was a carpenter living with his parents at 10 Bedwyn Common. Alice may have been a cousin of Sydney Whitbread, the father of Henry Frank Whitbread. In 1891 she was a housemaid at Durley House for Captain Louis Philip Gould late 77 Regt and his wife Louisa. Edwin was the Tottenham House carpenter and highly skilled - examples of his work are at 9 Durley. In later life he was also the chauffeur to the Marquess of Ailesbury.

6 Children (7): Renford known as 'Ren'; Edwin 'Victor' (b 26 Apr 1898 bapt 10 Jul 1898 AN 509 d 1905 buried St Katharine's) and twin Alice Elizabeth 'Amy' (b 26 Apr 1898 bapt 10 Jul 1898 AN 511 married William, the uncle of Peter Tilley); Evelyn Harriet Maud (b 25 Oct 1900 d 1980); Edward William (b 7 Jul 1902 AN 570); Winnifred Ann (b Oct-Dec 1904 possibly 19 Oct bapt 1 Jan 1905 AN 617 worked Tottenham House); Arthur 'Arty' Thomas (b Jan-Mar 1906 possibly 8 Dec 1905 bapt 1 Feb 1906 AN 644 porter at Savernake Station and took over from his father as chauffeur to the Marquess d 1955). All the children were baptised at St Katharine's Church and attended St Katharine's School (Admission Numbers – AN shown).



Sources

Medal Card, Census records 1911, Mrs Lise Hudson of 9 Durley, Marquess of Ailesbury, St Katharine's Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers, St Katharine's School Admission Register, History of 5th Service Battalion the Wiltshire Regiment by Paula Perry, Regimental Museum of the Royal Welch, Maggi Tucker

ARTHUR WILLIAM HILLIER

1916

Born	1897 Burbage
Parents	William and Alice Hillier of Puthall Cottages, Little Bedwyn (On north side of A4 at junction of road to Puthall Farm)
Other information	Baptised Burbage 6 Jun 1897. Occupation Cowman (1911)
Died	Killed in Action 4 Oct 1916 (Battle of the Somme)
Buried	Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps

Military Service

1915

Late Volunteered for Service
Enlisted Newbury Royal Berkshire Regiment (Berks)

1916 Joined 1st Battalion Berkshire Regiment (2nd Division) in France
Assumption that he joined battalion on or before 1 Jan

1 Jan Training Bellerive; 8 - issue of new helmets; 10 - inspected by Comd 99 Bde; 12 - brigade route march outskirts Bethune; 13-15 – training; 16 - marched to Hingette; 17 - marched to Le Touret to billets.

Bethune/La Basse Front

Jan-Feb 18-22 Jan - in line trenches flooded, island posts, no machine-guns in battalion, work on line including wiring at night; 22 - relieved and marched to Le Touret; 23 Jan-3 Feb church parade, baths, fatigues: then rest by day fatigues at night; 3-7 - in line Givenchy relieved 1st Bn Hertfordshire Regiment, very quiet; relieved by 23rd Bn Royal Fusiliers (RF) to Le Quesnoy; 8 - baths and rest in huts and farms; 11-15 - in line, 7 casualties on tour, to support; 18 Feb - back to billets at Hingette; 19 - Hingette to Bourcq, bathing, inspection and training; 26 - entrained Lillers for Noeux les Mines arrived 5.30 pm, then to Barlin; 28 - moved to Pt Sains.

Lens Front

29 Feb In line Aix Noulette. Took over from French 77 Regt. Long march, bad roads, thaw, numerous shell holes

Mar-Jul Routine very similar to before. 13 tours in line SW of Lens each 3-4 days; mostly very quiet except for shelling and sniping, so casualties few; much work done on defences in all weathers – snow, rain and sometimes very hot; when not in line working parties usually at night (sometimes whole battalion), training including shooting on ranges, rest and baths; 26 Jun – 100 men 1 Berks carried out unsuccessful raid on enemy opposite, 45 casualties.

20 Jul Marched to Dieval and entrained for Longeau, then by road to Morlancourt.

8

Somme Front/Battle of the Somme

26 Jul Moved forward to Bernafay Wood, orders given for attack by 99 Bde on Delville Wood next day; 27 – battle of Delville Wood, bombardment started 6.10 am, Zero hour 7 am, 1 Berks advanced several hundred yards and wood taken, enemy counter attack repulsed; 28 – intense enemy artillery fire before relieved, 248 casualties out of 450; 29-4 Aug back at Bernafay Wood rest and clean up by day and fatigues at night, then 2nd Division relieved, 1 Berks now only 280 strong.

- 9-25 Aug 10 – GOC 2nd Division congratulated 99 Bde on taking Delville Wood; 11-16 – in rear St Sauveur receiving reinforcements and training; 16-24 – marched to Couin via Naours and Authie over several days then training.
- Aug-Sep 2nd Division now in northern part of Somme front (Hebuterne sector). 3 tours in line (3-4 days), very wet and trenches in bad state but relatively quiet; interspersed with working parties, training, rest and bathing.
- 30 Sep Relieved 17 Notts & Derby in Serre section of front; 1-4 – very wet, these trenches also in bad state, wiring parties out at night. 4 – enemy trench mortars bombarded front and support trenches.
- 4 Oct Killed in Action **Battle of the Somme**

Medals: WM, VM

Family

Parents: William Henry Hillier (b 1869 Burbage bapt 5 Sep 1869 agricultural labourer 1901, carter 1911 Address: Eastcourt Burbage 1901 d 1959) and Alice Beckingham (b 1874 Burbage d cJun 1916)

Children (8): Arthur William (b 1897 d 1916); Charles (b c1899 possibly 16 Apr); Margaret (b c1901 bapt 4 Aug 1901); Gladys (b c1904); Kate (b c1906 Burbage); Reginald (b 1909 Crabtree Cottages); Ivy Beatrice (b Puthall Cottages bapt 18 Jun 1911); and Ada Marjorie (bapt 13 Aug 1913). Family must have lived at Crabtree Cottages sometime between 1907 and 1911.

Sources

Medal Card, CWGC, 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment War Diary WO 95/1371/1, 1901 and 1911 Census, Maggi Tucker

ALLAN FREDERICK SHEPHERD

1917

Born	c1893 Bermondsey
Parents	Elizabeth Ann Shepherd (nee Bushnell) of 5 Bedwyn Common and Daniel John Shepherd
Occupation	Hall boy servant at Elcot Park, Kintbury home of Richard John Plasket Thomas retired general produce broker (1911)
Other information	Baptised St Katharine's 26 Apr 1893
Died	Died of Wounds 12 Oct 1917 aged 24 (Private Royal Army Medical Corps 3rd Battle of Ypres)
Buried	Cement House Cemetery, West Vlaanderen Belgium

Military Service

- 1915 Enlisted Worcester Royal Army Medical Corps (No. 38295) (in France by 31 Dec 1915 because of 1915 Star). Training of 18th Division took place at Colchester and Salisbury Plain
- 26 Jul 55 Fd Amb (18th Division) entrained Wylie for Southampton then to Amiens (all that follows based on assumption he served in 55 Fd Amb throughout). Field Ambulance dealt with sick and wounded, provided collection from forward units, treatment, limited holding and evacuation. Deployments varied from providing a Main Dressing Station (MDS), one or more Advanced Dressing Station (ADS), or Rest Stations. Shepherd was a stretcher bearer so he would have collected wounded from forward areas and brought them back to an ADS or a collection point, often under fire. When not doing this he could have assisted in the DS or helped on evacuation, or been employed on the numerous administrative duties.

Somme front

- 8 Aug DS opened in school opposite church St Gratien (Somme, 3rd then 4th Army); moved on Somme 23 Aug Mericourt L'Abbaye (16 Sep), 12 Nov Daours
- 1916
- 13 Jan Back to Mericourt L'Abbaye (ADS at Bray and Ville); 5 Feb Pont Noyelles (Bearer Division at Ville); 6 Mar Corbie (in Chateau); Chipilly (on River Somme took over MDS and collection point; evacuation by barges); 4 May La Houssoye; 5 May Bertangles (closed – resting: CO complained that his men were being used for road making and making dugouts for HQ 18th Division); 13 Jun in camp midway between Sailly le Sec and Vaux (on River Somme); 17 Jun Grovetown Camp, Bray.

Battle of the Somme

- 25 Jun-21 Jul Battle of the Somme (18th Division's objective was Montauban); 55 Fd Amb processed 6926 casualties area Bronfofy, Carnoy and Maricourt.

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Ypres front

- 21 Jul Entrained Meaulte to St Omer; marched to Campagne (now in 2nd Army); 28 - La Brearde; 29 - Fletre (closed); 4 Aug Fort Rompu (on River Lys MDS); 24 Aug Estaires.

Somme front

- 25 Aug Entrained and moved to Tincquette (large hut); 9 Sep Houigneul; 10 Sep Lucheux; 11 Sep Puchevillers (now II Corps Reserve Army); 5 Oct Fienvillers; 15 Oct Bretel; 16 Oct Rubempre; 17 Oct

Albert; 23 Oct La Boisselle (ADS Pozieres); 22 Nov Marched to Vadenourt; 23 Nov Fienvillers; 26 Nov Maison Ponthieu; 27 Nov Domvast

1917

12 Jan Coulonvillers marched to Le Meillard; 15 Jan Beauquesne; 16 Jan Forceville (3 large huts and bell tents); 22 Jan Vadencourt (Chateau – II Corps Scabies Station); 5 Mar Albert; 23 Mar Vadencourt marched to Saveuse for rest

26 Mar Train to Steenbecque, 27 Mar Boesehem (in billets),

20 Apr Marched to Lambres; 21 - Bethune (Civil Hospital); 27 - Pressy les Pernes; 28 - Fuceux

Battle of Arras

29 Apr Battle of Arras (VII Corps 3rd Army)

-31 May

17 Jun Coigneux (E of Doullens marched at night because of heat)

Jul To Ypres front – Third Battle of Ypres (II Corps 5th Army)

3rd Battle of Ypres

Jul 25 - Ouderdoom (SW of Ypres); 31 Jul - start of 3rd Battle of Ypres

Aug 1 - withdrew from Zillebeke in heavy rain; 10 - 18th and 24th Divisions attacked (1035 casualties admitted 55 Fd Amb); 17 - 2257 casualties admitted; 19-31 - Blakart Farm Zegerscappel (close to Dunkirk in billets)

Sep 23 - L'Ebbe Farm (about 1.6 kms NW of Ypres); 29-30 - HQ at Chateau Rouge + 2 tent sub divisions

12 Oct Bearer casualties Private Shepherd and 2 others Killed in Action and 8 wounded. (CWGC say died of wounds but War Diary killed in action).

18th Division history recorded: '12 Oct the battle to secure Poelcappelle and Meunier House began. Leapfrogging was the method, but no method could conquer the mud. Every step required a great physical effort: every man was drenched to the skin. Many men stuck in the mud and were too exhausted to reach the lining up tape' and 'Heavy toll was taken of the RAMC: out of 44 doctors 14 became casualties; 7 were killed; within a fortnight 150 other ranks of the RAMC were put out of action.'

Medals: 1915 Star, WM, VM

Family

11

Parents: Daniel John Shepherd (b c1859 blacksmith and son of blacksmith; in 1881 living with his brother Joseph m Prudence Mills of Saddlers Cottages, Bedwyn Common; d 1896) m Elizabeth Ann Bushnell (b c1862 d 12 Jan 1929 Sheffield buried St Katharine's 110) at All Saints Newington, Surrey.

In 1891 the families of Daniel John and Joseph were living together at 14 Lockwood Road, Bermondsey with Daniel and Elizabeth's first child (Ellen Prewy); in 1893 Daniel and Elizabeth were in the workhouse of St Olave's Union, Bermondsey where Allan Frederick was probably born, and Elizabeth was still there in 1901. In 1901 Allan Frederick was living with his grandfather George Bushnell (gamekeeper) in Saddlers Cottages, Bedwyn Common. By 1911 Elizabeth, then a widow, was also living with her father George (now a retired gamekeeper). That same year Prudence, also a widow, was servant to Mary Jane Kendall in Shalbourne Berkshire.

Children (2): Ellen Prewy (b Jan-Mar 1890 possibly 29 Jan AN 421 m 1921 Stanley Chittenden 1891-1960); Allan Frederick (b c1893 d 1917).

Inscription on Elizabeth Ann Shepherd's gravestone (by Ellen Prewy): 'In loving memory of my dear mother died 12 Jan 1929 aged 66 yrs and also of Allan Frederick Shepherd aged 29 yrs'.

Sources

WO95/2030/1 War Diary 55 Fd Amb, 18th Division in Great War GHF Nicholls,

CGWC, St Katharine's School Admissions Record (AN No), St Katharine's Church Burial Register, 1891, 1901 and 1911 Census, Medal Card, Maggi Tucker, Edward Stileman

CYRIL WALTER CARLETON WASEY

1917

Born 29 Sep 1893 India
Parents George Kindersley and Sidney Jane Wasey
Address Wolfhall Burbage until Mar 1917, then Leigh Hill House Savernake
School Eton
Died Killed in Action 28 Oct 1917
Buried Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension (about 15 km NW of Arras on N39)



Military Service

1913

Mar RMA Sandhurst, Commissioned Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Warwicks) (No. 18838)

1914

22 Aug Arrived France with 1 Warwicks (10 Bde 4th Division)
Received Legion of Honour for assistance given to French

26 Aug – 1 Sep **Battle of Le Cateau** followed by Retreat to Paris

7-10 Sep **Battle of the Marne**

12-15 Sep **Battle of the Aisne**

13 | 13-17 Oct Battle of Armentieres

14 Oct Left 1 Warwicks evacuated sick - suffering from fever (due to inclement weather and exhaustion).

18 Oct Arrived England (Boulogne – Southampton)

4 Nov Posted to 3 Warwicks, Parkhurst IOW

18 Nov 1915 Fit for duty and returned to 1 Warwicks in line N of Armentieres

5 Mar Left 1 Warwicks evacuated wounded - rifle wound right arm received at Ploegsteert

17 Mar Arrived England (Le Havre – Southampton)

Apr Promoted to Captain

30 Apr Posted to 3 Warwicks. Medical boards 28 Apr and 19 May

31 May Mentioned in Despatches

Returned to 2 Warwicks (7th Division) – date not known but could have been much later

25 Sep-7 Nov **Battle of Loos**

Oct In line at Cuinchy

5 Dec Entrained Lillers for Salens

1916

Feb In line at Morlancourt

1-13 Jul **Battle of the Somme** (Albert)

14-17 Jul **Battle of the Somme** (Bazentin)

14 Jul-5 Sep **Battle of the Somme** (Delville Wood)

3-6 Sep **Battle of the Somme** (Guillemont)

3 Sep Left 2 Warwicks – wound to jaw, broken in two places and lost five teeth at Ginchy (Somme)

10 Sep Arrived England (Rouen – Southampton)

Cambridge Military Hospital Aldershot

1917

9 Feb Returned to France

Volunteered for Royal Flying Corps and qualified as an observer

Sep Returned to France and attached 16 Squadron RFC

Flew RE8 two-seater observation aircraft on 18 missions

28 Oct (Sunday) During **3rd Battle of Ypres** his plane was attacked by two enemy aircraft which he fought off with 250 rounds. However, they fired a parting shot which hit him in the head, killing him instantly.

1918

1 Jan Awarded Military Cross posthumously

Medals: Military Cross (pictured), Legion of Honour, Despatches, 1914 Star, WM, VM



Family

Parents: George Kindersley Wasey (b 1861 bapt 7 Jul 1861 Compton Berks; Chief Engineer and then Director West of India Portuguese Railway (WIPR) and later Secretary to a Public Company went by carriage to Savernake Upper to catch the train to London. George was Churchwarden Burbage 1913/1914 d 25 Feb 1943) and Sidney Jane Wasey (b 1869 India daughter of Colonel Charles Willis Godfrey 1840-1908 commissioned 1858 Indian Staff Corps 1897 and Ellen Sydney Marsden; in 1901 she was living with her parents at Douro House, Cheltenham and son Cyril Walter Carleton aged 7; d 1947). Both parents buried St Katharine's.

Children (3): Cyril Walter Carleton (b 29 Sep 1893); Sidney Jane Leonora (b 15 Mar 1903 stayed on at Leigh Hill House when her parents died: Mrs Hiller recorded 'in about 1980 she moved with her maid Beattie into a nursing home – Beattie continued to turn down her bed at night. Miss Wasey hunted with the Tedworth and rode side-saddle' d 1989 buried St Katharine's); Geoffrey Charles Marsden (b c1908 d 24 Feb 1917 aged 9 – the same year that his brother was killed).

Note: In 1902 WIPR, a British company, was set up to manage the line from Goa to its junction with the South Mahratta Railway at Karnataka. The line had been built in 1888.

Note: Cyril Walter Carleton Wasey is remembered on a plaque outside the porch of St Katharine's Church (his name is also on the Burbage War Memorial).

Sources

NA WO 339/8876, Medal Card, Article in Flight 8 Aug 1917, Royal Warwickshire Regiment website, CWGC, Mrs Judith Hiller MBE, St Katharine's Burial Register

WILLIAM ROBERT GOSLING

1918

Born	30 Sep 1892 in St John's Wood, London
Parents	James and Annie Gosling, Charles Lane, St John's Wood
Married	Edith Mary Jane Gosling nee Barrett (20 Dec 1914 at Denbigh Road Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, London). Address on enlistment in 1914 - 61 Portobello Road, Notting Hill. Son Bernard William Gosling born 17 Mar 1918 at 33 Thistleland (now part of Sicily House).
School	St Stephens School St John's Wood
Occupation	Plumber's labourer 1911, later given as a zinc liner and piano packer
Died	Killed in Action 21 Mar 1918 (Second Lieutenant MM 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment) four days after his son was born. Note: same date and place as Palmer
Buried	No known grave. Commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial (Somme)

Military Service

April 1908 Enlisted 9th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Territorials) then under 16 years old; served 4 years until April 1912 when discharged.

1914

12 Sep Volunteered, enlisted and served in the UK until 29 Jul 1915 almost certainly all with 13th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (13 KRRC, a battalion of Kitchener's New Army) (R/4498 or R/4311)

Oct 13 KRRC formed at Winchester attached to 21st Division; moved to Hatton Park, Bucks (under canvas) and then in Nov 1914 to billets in Amersham and Great Missenden; 13 Oct promoted to LCpl and 5 Nov to Cpl; absent without leave from 26 Nov to 1 Dec for which reduced to the rank of LCpl. 16 Dec again promoted to Cpl, and Sgt 19 Jul 1915.

1915

9 Apr 13 KRRC moved by train to Windmill Camp, Ludgershall and transferred to 111 Bde 37th Division; it crossed to France from Folkestone on SS Servial escorted by two destroyers.

31 Jul Landed at Boulogne and marched to Ostrohove Rest Camp (in town); next day marched to the beach and swam in sea before marching to Pont de Briques (S of Boulogne) to entrain. This took them to Watten (N of St Omer); from there they marched to Bayenghem de Eperlecques.

Ypres Front

16 Aug Marched to Campagne via St Omer (14 miles) and bivouacked for the night; 5 - marched to St Sylvestre and billeted in farms near the village; it was noted that march discipline could be improved (roads were cobbled and heavily cambered; the men had to march on the opposite side of the road in France; they were unused to the heavy loads; and many had new boots issued just before their departure); 5-27 - training under 12th Division with C Coy (Gosling) under 7 Norfolk; Gen Plumer inspected the brigade on 8 Aug; 21 - C Coy had first spell in the trenches; its training over, the battalion entrained on 27 Aug for Doullens and then marched to Halloy; 28 - rested and bathed in River Quilienne; 29 - battalion church parade; 30 - brigade inspected by GOC 3rd Army.

9 Aug Gosling made a will leaving all that he had to his wife Edith.

Arras Front

Sep More marches; 4 - moved 7 miles to St Amand; 5 - moved to Bienvillers to take up winter quarters. 10 - into trenches at Hannescamps to relieve 13 RB, night fine and clear; work begun in earnest to improve trenches, parapets, fire steps, wire, latrines, this was made difficult by enemy snipers; relieved by 10 N Lincs 16 Sep. 23 - marched to Humbercamps and issued with tents which were pitched in an orchard during stormy night; 27 - ordered to relieve N Lincs and moved to Bienvillers and provided working parties until end of month.

- Oct 3 - relieved 13th Bn Rifle Brigade (RB) in trenches until 9 Oct; the next few days at St Amand bathing, working parties, inspections and training; 15 - moved to Berles and relieved 13 RB in support; 16-18 - again fatigues, bathing and inspections; evening of 18 Oct imminent gas threat: precautions and reactions were tested; 21 - marched to Bienvillers and relieved 10 N Lancs; trench digging and cable laying then into the trenches Hannescamps and relieved 13 RB.
- Nov 1 - heavy rain; life in trenches difficult; support trenches flooded to a depth of several feet; relieved 5 Nov and marched back to billets at St Amand; after drying off continued with specialist training in bombing, machine-guns and sniping, as well as the inevitable trench digging; 15 - moved back to Bienvillers in brigade reserve; more fatigue parties organised under RE for trench repair, working day and night; back into the trenches 17 Nov to find the snow and rain had left them in a very bad state; 20 - relieved and marched back to Bienvillers but on 23 Nov back in the trenches in very bad weather. The period in the trenches had now been reduced from 6 to 3 days and they were relieved on 26 Nov; after a day's rest on 27 Nov rest of month training and digging.
- 17 Dec Dec continued in the same manner; 2 - route marched to Henu and back via Souastre, it being too wet for field operations; some got baths, some fatigues; 4 Dec more training, particularly in gas warfare, more digging and route marches; 8 - moved back to Bienvillers; 19 - back in trenches which again were in a bad way because of the weather; the stay in the front line was cut short due to the number of cases of frost-bite and trench foot; they were relieved 12 Dec; 13-15 - again provided working parties for the RE and RB; 16 - back in trenches doing repair work at the front and remained there slowly improving the trenches under some light shelling until 20 Dec; 21 - rest day at St Amand cleaning and drying clothes and equipment and then it was back to inspections and digging parties; Christmas Day was celebrated after a church parade in the divisional theatre; the men were provided with Christmas lunch by the officers comprising tomato soup, roast goose with sausages and apple sauce, plum puddings. 'All men were in excellent spirits and free beer was provided by Major Simmonds'; the rest of the month was spent on training and inspections.
- 1916
- Jan Marched to Bienvillers and relieved 10 LNL (N Lancs); now decided to do six day tours in the trenches; work continued to improve the trenches; 13 Jan marched back to billets in St Amand for rest and working parties. This routine continued for the rest of the month – inspections, bathing, working parties, route marches, specialist training (machine-guns, grenades and signalling) with tours in the trenches; weather caused the worst problems.
- Feb 1 - in trenches at Hannescamps; 6 - relieved and back at St Amand. 7 - rest day and 8 onwards - working parties; warned for a move north and on 12th the move was completed to Baillieulval (via Humbercamps, La Cauchie and Bailleulmont); billets still occupied by the French but had moved on by the morning; 13-14 - cleaning billets which were left in a very dirty state; 15 - into the trenches, relieving 10 RF; trenches in a very bad state due to recent heavy rain and high gum boots were worn by nearly every man; 16-18 - quiet with all available pumps and men used to clear water in the trenches; relieved on 19th and returned to Baillieulval, bathing and working parties; returned to trenches on 23rd, a night of snow followed by hard frost; 27 - relieved with signs of a thaw in the weather; returned to the usual routine of training and working parties.
- Mar 1 - back in the trenches; enemy quiet, weather very cold and unpleasant, 4 - relieved; after a few days rest back in the trenches on 7th and apart from shelling enemy was quiet; 10 - out of trenches but back in again on 14th when weather reported as fine and condition of trenches much improved; 19 - they were relieved by 2nd Bn Duke of Wellington's Regiment (DOW); 21 - marched off by platoons to Bailleulmont – Mondicourt – Pommera – Halloy and spent the night in huts; next morning marched via Doullens to Neuville (about 4 miles north of Doullens); men were in fairly good billets; a rest period of 4 weeks was expected; rest of the month training, highlight being inspected by Haig and Kitchener.
- Apr Specialist training and church parade behind the chateau in Neuville; training consisted of platoon drill, bayonet exercises, route marches, musketry, grenade practice, tube helmet drill, and rapid erection of wire entanglements; rest of Apr more of the same with a break of being inoculated against typhoid on the 17th; 21 - battalion sports day held, training being held up because of the inclement weather. 23 - marched to Bavincourt and went into huts there. Church service was held despite the lack of a chaplain and the men were allowed to settle in.
- 18 May 1 - Bienvillers again: some changes, a light railway now ran from the church but only used at night for RE stores; water was now pumped from Bienvillers and by pipes to behind the trenches;

relieved 1 Warwicks that evening. 3 - relieved by 6 Bedfords and marched to billets in Berles. 4 - violent bombardment of trenches was heard lasting about 45 minutes, stood to but enemy did not follow up; 5 - a similar bombardment took place on 6 Bedfords; this was followed up with a raid but the enemy were repulsed. 7 - returned to trenches and had a quiet tour; relieved on 14th, returning to billets in Berles; again routine out of the line was working parties and training; another tour in the line followed 19-24; 28 - a party of 500 men and 11 officers were detailed to work on advanced trench line of 13 RF during the night; soon after commencing work the party were shelled by the enemy, 9 killed and 24 wounded; 31 - back in the trenches.

Jun 13 KRRC was in the line until 6 Jun; it was again relatively quiet. 6 - relieved and went back to Berles; they had now been in this sector for about 10 months, much of it had been quiet with occasional shelling and sniping; casualties in the battalion had been few.

Battle of the Somme

6 Jul-22 Aug 111 Bde attached to 34th Division III Corps (to replace one of its brigades destroyed on 1 Jul); took part in the Battle of the Somme (battle of Bazentin Ridge)

Nov Gezaincourt rehearsing attack which was executed on 13-14 Nov to capture Beaucourt. The attack was successful and the battalion was subsequently thanked by the army commander *'for their splendid efforts under most difficult circumstances'*. It seems likely that Sgt Gosling's Military Medal (MM) was awarded for his actions during this attack. The regimental chronicles list the decorations issued to the 13th Battalion during 1916 and show Gosling's number as being R/4311.

13-18 Nov Back with 37th Division for Battle of the Somme (battle of the Ancre).

1917

1 Jan Regimental chronicles report that Gosling was presented with the MM ribbon near Merville by Lieutenant General Sir Richard Haking late Hamps GOC XI Corps. The London Gazette announcement of the award was not published until 1 Apr 1917.

29 Jan Put forward as a candidate for a commission and seen in person by the Comd 111 Bde Brigadier General CW Compton.

Commissioned

7 Apr Accepted for admission to 19 Officer Cadet Battalion at Pirbright

24 Aug Appointed to a temporary commission: he was then posted to 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment – 2 Wilts in 30th Division (Sep probably on leave)

6 Oct 2Lt WR Gosling joined 2 Wilts from Rouen and was posted to C Coy in support trenches Wytschaete sector

Ypres Front

Oct 8 - 2 Wilts moved back to reserve trenches; 10-20 - relieved and went to Bury Camp, Belgium cleaning up, bathing and sport; 20 - support trenches Wytschaete sector; 21-23 - front line 3 killed and 5 wounded shelling; 24 - support line, working parties; 26-29 - front line; 26 - C Coy 3 cas MG fire; conditions very bad; 30 - Parrain Camp Kemmel bathing and cleaning up

19

Nov 1-7 – battalion parade; work on improvements to camp, training and rest; battalion cross-country won by C Coy; 8-10 - in line Wytschaete sector, difficult to keep in repair because so low lying; 11-12 - support trenches; 13-15 - Parrain Farm; 16-25 - Steenvoorde

19 Nov Gosling appointed OC C Coy

26-30 - in line Dikkebus, Hedge St tunnels, much shelling, Lewis gun C Coy destroyed

Dec 1-5 - reserve trenches Gheluvelt; 5-12 - Chippawa Camp then by train to Reninghelst; 13-16 - reserve trenches Hedge St; 19-22 - Scottish Wood Camp, training and working parties; 24-26 - in line 7 casualties in battalion; 27-29- reserve Hedge St, working and carrying parties; 30-31 - Chippawa Camp, battalion concert and Christmas celebration

1918

Jan 1-6 – Reninghelst ranges and bathing; 7-10 - La Belle Hostesse; 10 - entrained Steenbecque for Longueau; 11-13 - Moreuil marched to Caix; 14-20 - marched to Roye and Carrepuis, training; 20 - marched to Freniches 10 miles, training, bathing, rest and sport

Oise Front

29 (30th Division now in III Corps) Relieved French Vendeuil; C Coy in front line until 7 Feb very quiet
Feb 7 - marched/transport to billets Bethancourt; 9 - marched to Guiscard and 10 to Le Plessis; 9-22 - Le Plessis training; 13 - Inspection by Haig
20 Feb Gosling on leave
10 Mar Gosling returned from leave
10-17 - Savy dugouts; 18-21 - trenches St Quentin

Battle of St Quentin

21 Mar 4.30 am. Intense bombardment with high explosive and gas continued throughout day. At 10 am enemy attacked with two divisions on battalion front in dense mist broke through and surrounded them. 600 casualties including 100 killed, many taken prisoner.

Gosling was reported missing but it was not until 28 Mar 1919 that Edith was formally notified of his death. Lieutenant Thomas W Glyn wrote (19 Jul 1918) from a prisoner of war camp in Germany that he had heard that Gosling had been killed but this second hand evidence was not accepted because Glyn had last seen him the evening before (20 Mar). 11141 Private R Sawyer 2 Wilts wrote that Gosling was killed leading his men on 21 Mar but this too was not accepted. It was not until Sergeant EC Moreton 2 Wilts wrote from a prisoner of war camp also in Germany 'that Second Lieutenant Gosling was my platoon commander and died of a wound in the body and I saw him lying dead in the English lines' that Gosling was officially accepted as dead. His place of death is near Epine D'Allon on the Ham-St Quentin road (on the SE outskirts of St Quentin). From the correspondence received from Edith (whose letters are well written – both clarity and English) that she had accepted his death long before being officially notified.

20

Medals: MM (LG 29881 dated 12th March 1917 page 2483, pictured), 1915 Star, WM, VM

Family

Parents: James Gosling (b c1842) married his second wife Frances Annie Jordan (b 1865 Pewsey or Wootton Rivers) on 31 Dec 1888 at St Stephen the Martyr, Marylebone. In 1891 they lived at 2 Charles Lane, St John's Wood

Children (3): Eliza Annie (b cSep 1889 d Jan-Mar 1911), Albert James (b cJun 1891) and William Robert (b 30 Sep 1892; 1911 living with his widowed mother, Annie, and brother Albert at 84 St John's Wood Terrace St Marylebone; married Edith Barrett 20 Dec 1914).

Edith Gosling (nee Barrett b 7 Dec 1891 AN 394 d 6 Jan 1962 buried St Katharine's 532 in register unmarked) was the daughter of Anthony John (b 1853 d cFeb 1925) and Fanny Barrett (b 1868 d cNov 1933), m 1890 both buried St Katharine's; they had 5 children – Kate (b 1888 d cJun 1919), Elizabeth (b 9 May 1893 AN 440), Albert 'Bertie' Henry (b 1896 AN 484 d 18 May 1963. He and his wife Edith Blanche lived at 23 Stokke Common and had 10 children including Ivy and Shirley both living in 2014. Bertie 539 in register and Edith are both buried in St Katharine's), and Nellie (b Dec 1894 d Sep 1895). In 1901 the Barretts were living in 33 Thistleland now part of Sicily House. In 1911 Edith was employed as a servant to Charles Spottiswoode, solicitor, and his family living in Notting Hill, London. At the time of her wedding on 20 Dec 1914 Edith was living at 69 Oxford Gardens, Kensington; sometime before Jan 1917 Edith returned to Sicily Cottages to live with her father. Later c1927 she moved to Great Bedwyn (8 or 9 Church Street). Her occupation then was a piano tuner or piano teacher.

Bernard William Gosling (b 17 Mar 1918 d 14 May 1956 Royal Free Hospital – probate address Stansted) went to St Katharine's School (1923-1927), Great Bedwyn School (1927-1928) and Newbury Grammar School (1928-1935). After school he became an auctioneer's clerk at Neates. He married Margaret Patricia Barnes in 1953 at Saffron Walden.

Shirley Barrett (21 Jan 2014) knew her aunt (Edith – Edie) when she was 8-16 years old: 'Edith was taller than Shirley's father (over 5' 10") and a piano teacher. After Edith's parents died she (Edith) moved from Thistleland to Great Bedwyn (a council house 8 or 9 Church Street with a piano in the front room). Her son Bernard never knew his

father. Bernard married in London about 1950 (1953) and had a son before he died in 1952 (1956). That son and Bernard's wife may still be alive.'

Sources

WO339/98750 Gosling's service file at NA, Medal Card, 13 KRRC War Diary

Census 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911, Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (School Registers), St Katharine's School Admissions Register (Admission Number = AN),

St Katharine's Church Burial Register, The Wardrobe Winchester, The Wiltshire Regiment in the First World War (2nd Battalion), Shirley and Ivy Barrett, CWGC, Francis Fletcher of Sicily House, Probate record, and Sue Challen

WILLIAM HENRY PALMER

1918

Born	9 Jun 1877 Crabtree, Little Bedwyn
Parents	David and Sarah Palmer, Crabtree Cottages, Savernake
Address	Living with parents 1911
Other information	Baptised St Katharine's 1877
School	St Katharine's School AN 141
Died	21 st March 1918 Killed in Action Note: same date and place as Gosling
Buried	No known grave. Commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial (Somme)

Military Service

1916 Enlisted Devizes (No. 33477)

1917

20 Apr Joined 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment – 2 Wilts (30th Division) in France (draft of 50 other ranks)

Arras Front

Apr 21-23 - Neuville Vitasse; 23-24 - Second Battle of the Scarpe; advanced to Cherisy-Heninel road and dug in; 26-29 – in trenches heavy shelling; 29 – relieved marched to Arras station; entrained for Buneville

May 1-3 – Buneville, perfect weather, training; 4-15 – Blangermont/Blangerval training; 16-20 - Vieil Hesdin training; 20 – marched to Ouef 6 miles; 22 – marched north to Predefin 14 miles; 23-30 – marched via Febvin Paillart, Borre, Steenvoorde to Brandhoek (just east of Ypres) very hot

Ypres Front

Jun 1-14 – in camp (tents) Brandhoek; training, working parties; 14-20 – Palace Camp (tents) Dikkebus (SE of Ypres); 21-30 – in line Zillebeke, much shelling, patrols, work on front line; relieved and entrained (cattle trucks) for Watten, then marched to La Panne

Jul 1-19 – La Panne, weather hot, training, sport, practice divisional attack; 19-24 – Abeele, training; 25-28 – Palace Camp Dikkebus; 28 – into trenches Zillebeke

3rd Battle of Ypres

29-30 – Very heavy shelling, assembly complete by 1.30 am 31 Jul. 3.40 am Zero hour Battle of Pilckem Ridge, about 50 killed, many prisoners taken

Aug 1-3 - new line consolidated, then relieved; 4 – embussed to Eecke, there until 7 Aug; 7-10 – Moolenacker W of Bailleul, training and rest; 12-20 – Inkerman Camp Locre, training and preparation; 22-31 – in line Messines sector, impossible to move in daylight, D Coy raided 30 Aug, 24 casualties

Sep 1-6 - reserve trenches Wytschaete sector; 7-11 – in line, 12-26 – brigade reserve, training, working parties (22 – 8 casualties by shelling, gas); 27-4 Oct in line, every day casualties

Oct 5-6 – support trenches; 7 - 2 Wilts moved back to reserve trenches; 10-20 - relieved and went to Bury Camp, Belgium cleaning up, bathing and sport; 20 - support trenches Wytschaete sector; 21-23 - front line 3 killed and 5 wounded shelling; 24 - support line, working parties; 26-29 - front line; 26 - C Coy 3 cas MG fire; conditions very bad; 30 - Parrain Camp Kemmel bathing and cleaning up

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Battle of St Quentin

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Battle of St Quentin - the British infantry (including 2 Wilts 30th Division) were attacked in overwhelming strength: they had to wear gas masks all day: the fast moving enemy broke through the gaps in the defences and rounded them up from behind: thousands were killed and many more captured.

Medals: WM, VM

Family

Parents: David (b 1839 Crabtree, Little Bedwyn labourer, then woodman, and then hurdle maker d cJun 1917) m 1861 Sarah Goddard (b 1837 Wootton Rivers d 1891). After Sarah died David remarried Ellen Mildenhall nee Mason (b Little Bedwyn). David and his then wife were living at Crabtree 1851 and 1871 onwards.

Children (10): Emma Jane (b 1861), Daniel (b 1863 bapt 24 May 1863 gardener m Elizabeth Ann Lockwood and lived on Bedwyn Common d 1926), Sarah Ann (b 1865 bapt 23 Jun 1865 waitress at Durley House for Captain Louis Philip Gould late 77 Regt and wife Louisa 1891), Frederick (b 1867 bapt 27 Oct 1867), James (b 9 Jul 1869 bapt 29 Aug 1869 previously at Cadley School), Alfred (b 6 May 1871 bapt 25 Jun 1871 AN 72), Edith Louise (b 1873 bapt 13 Jul 1873 AN 75 kitchen maid at Durley House for Captain Louis Philip Gould late 77 Regt and wife Louisa 1891), Albert E (b 2 Jun 1875 bapt 11 Jul 1875 AN 116 living at Crabtree with parents 1911), William Henry (b 1877 bapt 11 Jul 1877 d 1918), Alice Eveline (b 1880 bapt 29 Aug 1880 servant to a family in Paddington 1911). All children baptised St Katharine's.

Also living at Crabtree was William Henry's grandfather Isaac and John (David's brother, a carpenter) with his children.

Sources

Medal Card, St Katharine's School Admission Register, CWGC, Parish Register, Census 1851-1911, The Wiltshire Regiment in the First World War (2nd Battalion), Philip Lindsell of Crabtree Cottages, Maggi Tucker

THOMAS MARTIN

1918

Born	c1883 Cambusnethan, Wishaw, Lanarkshire
Parents	Agnes and John Martin, 184 Cambusnethan Street Wishaw Lanarkshire
Married	Norah May South Jan-Mar 1911, registered Maidenhead Westleaze Bromsdon Highmore
Address	Henley on Thames 1911 later Bloxham Cottages Bedwyn 1918
Children	Norah Jean 1911, John (Jock) 1913 and James 1915
Occupation	Gamekeeper
Died	Died of Wounds 15th June 1918 (Gunner Royal Garrison Artillery)
Buried	Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension, Italy

Military Service

1916

- 3 Jul Called up for service
 Enlisted Great Bedwyn/Plymouth (No. 98552)
 247 Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery (4 x 6" 26 cwt BL howitzers, each had crew of 10)
- 19 Sep Assumed he joined the battery when it was raised at Tynemouth – no guns just basic training
- 12 Oct Aldershot – still no guns but now field training
- 10 Dec Battery moved to Larkhill; 14 Dec – Battery Commander's opinion battery not fit for active service but passed as fit by Siege School; 15 Dec - marched to Codford; 16-26 Dec mobilisation leave
- 29 Dec 12.55 pm. Entrained for Southampton
- 30 Dec 2 pm. Embarked SS Monas Queen for France; 31 Dec 3 am arrived Le Havre; disembarked 7 am
- 1917

6 Jan By train and road to join VII Corps at Wanquetin – Arras front

Arras Front

- 13-18 Jan Dug in and prepared positions
- 21 Jan Received 200 rounds from Ammo Park
- 24 Jan Registration and next day. 28 Jan 45 rds Counter Battery fire (CB), 29 Jan 100 rds CB, 1 Feb 30 rds CB, 3 Feb 126 rds CB
- 10-14 Feb Prepared second gun position
- 1 Mar Orchard Faubourg d'Amiens outskirts of Arras and daily firing 25-100 rds CB, 15 Mar 200 rds CB with aeroplane observation, 16 Mar 50 rds wire-cutting
- 20 Mar Out of action to lay light railway for ammunition and dig shelters for gun positions
- 21 Mar Back in action 200 rds at dugouts – mostly destroyed
- 3 Apr Registration
- 4-8 Apr Preliminary bombardment + CB 3rd Army attack Battle of Arras, 8 Apr 1030 rds fired by battery

Battle of Arras

- 9 Apr Zero hour Battle of Arras in heavy rain. Many enemy guns knocked out or captured.

10 Apr Moved to new gun position on soft ground (now in 22 Heavy Artillery Group)
15 Apr Fenchy CB daily
24 Apr Zero for further attack (4 am)
May 1 - Fenchy; 8 - direct hit on ammo rear of No 3 gun no casualties
1-3 Jun 600 rds with aeroplane observation on enemy trenches
6-12 Jun Daily bombardment of enemy trenches

Lens Front

21 Jun Battery moved to new position near Noeux les Mines (I Corps). Position at Noulette behind some trees and ruined houses
27 Jun Premature in No 3 gun – 2 wounded
8 Jul Battery entrained Bethune detrained Coudekerque, near Dunkirk (1st Army)
No trace of war diary covering service in Italy
5 Sep Malta

Italy

5 Nov XIV Corps arrived in Italy (247 Battery may have arrived at the same time)
1918

31 May Attached XIV Corps Ammunition Dump

Wounded in back and arm

15 Jun Died of Wounds

Medals: WM, VM

Family

Parents: John Martin (b 1846 one of 12 children, a coal miner by age of 14 d 1900) and Agnes McCreadie (b 1851 one of 8 children d 1892 when Thomas was 9)

Children (9): Thomas (b 1883 d 1918) and eight others

Wife: married by 1911 Norah May South (b 1890 Woodford Green, London; parents Frederick South b 1842 d 1904 Wood Green and Mary Ann South nee Hocking b 1842 Grantham, in 1911 working as a housekeeper in Leicestershire d 1930 Grantham; Norah May d 1 Nov 1955)

Children: Norah Jean (b 1911 m 1930 Charles John Britton 1909-1995 and had 5 children d 1978); John (b 1913); and James (b 1915)

Mrs Joan Chapman recalled that 'Thomas Martin and Norah May met when they were both working in a house at Peppard near Reading. When Thomas Martin died his wife moved to Stokke Common. She later married Joan Chapman's father, Charles Leonard Cripps (b 1887 Ramsbury enlisted 6857 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment 1904 address then Ramsbury and working as carter/agricultural worker later in war Suffolk Regiment 36866 then Labour Corps 546187 WM and VM d 1959) whom she met at the Marlborough Fair. He had also served in the First World War and been wounded in the leg.'

Sources

CWGC, 247 Siege Bty War Diary WO95/302, Medal Card, Mrs Joan Chapman of Great Bedwyn, Maggi Tucker