



Woodford Remembers



Pte. William Neal

18 October 1890 - 9 May 1915

Family

William's father, Thomas, was born in Burton Latimer to John and Elizabeth Neal. Thomas was a coal carter. The family later moved to Kettering and lived in Crown Street and then later Field Street. Thomas married Elizabeth Marie Richards at Geddington Parish Church on 5 November 1881. Her death is recorded in the third quarter of 1883. Thomas remarried on 7 May 1890, his bride being spinster Rebecca Mary Warren, at Woodford Parish Church. Rebecca was the daughter of Luke (b Twywell c1845) and Mary Warren nee Hornsby (b Islip) married in Twywell in 1865. The Warren family lived in one of the cottages at Woodford Lodge Farm (Cranford Road).

William (or Willie as he was registered at birth) was born to Thomas and Rebecca Mary Neal (Nee Warren) on 18 October 1890. He was baptised at St Mary's Church Woodford on 23 November 1890. He was followed by Mary in 1894 and Frederick in 1898, Beatrice in 1901 and Alice in 1903. Willie started school on 17 June 1895, moving to the Junior school 27 June 1899. On leaving school in about 1904 he worked as a labourer before joining the army in about 1906.

William's father, Thomas died in Kettering in July 1903, and his mother Rebecca re-married on 7 August 1905 to William Thomas Perkins (b Wollaston), son of Septamus Perkins. The family eventually moved to 26 Cannon Street, Wellingborough, where they had two children of their own: Edith and Geoffrey.

Army Service

William enlisted with the Northamptonshire Regiment (2nd Battalion) in approximately 1906 and his regimental service number was 8831. He enlisted in Northampton giving his birthplace as Woodford. Willie spent six years in India. In the First World War he continued his service with the 2nd Battalion. His last battle was at Aubers Ridge on 9th May 1915 when he was listed as being "killed in action".

His medal card records him as a Private, however, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour lists him as a sergeant.

Burial / grave

Not known

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Panel 07 Ploegsteert Memorial

Wellingborough War Memorial



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If you can help with more information please contact

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