

## *William John Henry*

Private, Scots Guards, and Sapper, Royal Engineers. Enlisted May 11th, 1915. Served in England and in France. Died in hospital at Kilmarnock, October 29th, 1919. Buried at Kilmarnock, Scotland. General Service and Victory Medals.



**W**ILLIAM JOHN HENRY was born in Ireland in 1888. His father was also called William John and his mother's name was Margaret.

The family had moved to Scotland by 1901 and were living in Kilmaurs in Ayrshire, from where William enlisted for the war in May 1915 at the age of 28. He described his trade as a loco storeman.

He was initially drafted into the Scots Guards and he would have been training in Corsham in 1915 and 1916, evidenced by the fact that he married Lillian Fanny Wickings of Priory Street, Corsham, in May 1916 in Chippenham Registry Office. Lillian, who was born in Box, already had a young son, Henry James Wickings, born illegitimately in June 1915. Before the war she had worked as a cook for a retired Army officer in Bath.

William served in France between August 1916 and April 1919, but in March 1917 he was transferred from the Scots Guards to the Royal Engineers 'for the benefit of the service'. He joined the No.32 Light Railway Company and in February 1918 he was promoted to Acting Lance Corporal – a rank of which he was later deprived because of 'idling in the camp'. He was injured in March 1919, and was treated in

## CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

Edinburgh Hospital for ongoing disability issues relating to his back, leg and hip. His injuries qualified him for a 30 per cent disablement rating when he appeared before a Medical Board in May 1919.

Lillian gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in July 1919, but it is possible that William never saw his daughter because he died in hospital in Kilmarnock on 29th October 1919. He is buried in Kilmaurs Parish Churchyard.

Lillian did not remarry and died in Bath in 1966. Elizabeth Henry married Arthur Chamberlain locally in 1940.