

William Henry Gunstone



Private, 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted at Devizes, November 19th, 1915. Served in France 2 years and 11 months. Wounded and gassed soon after he went to France. Rejoined. Killed in action, October 19th, 1918. General Service and Victory Medals.



A LOCAL MAN BORN IN Shaw Hill near Melksham in 1882, William was living with his wife Adah Florence (née Ricketts) in Spring Field Cottages in Priory Street, Corsham, prior to the outbreak of war – they had married in 1910. In 1911 his occupation was recorded as being a domestic groom, as it had been in 1901, when at only 18 he was already living away from home in Almondsbury in Gloucestershire. He was probably comfortable with horses from an early age, as his father Henry was a farm labourer and carter. In

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

1891 when William was nine he was living in Cumberwell Cottage near Bradford on Avon with his father, his mother Ellen and younger sisters Elizabeth and Mary. He also had a younger brother Frederick, born in 1892.

William and his wife Adah had four children, Iris, Herbert, Olive and Frank, before he enlisted in the Army in 1915, when he was 33. He joined the Wiltshire Regiment and fought in France for nearly three years. He was killed in action on 19th October 1918 – tragically close to the end of the war – and is buried at the St Aubert British Cemetery in Northern France.

His brother Frederick, who also served in the Wiltshire Regiment, was killed in action in January of the same year.