

William Alderman

Gloucestershire Regiment 18th Battalion

1893 – 1917



Born in Swanbournetowards the end of 1893, William was baptised at St Swithuns Church, Swanbourne on 4th February 1894. His parents were William Frank John and Louisa Ann Alderman (nee Alderman) who had married in 1890. They lived In Nearton End, and William had eight siblings, Alice Sarah (1890), Minnie (1892), Frederick (1895), Arthur (1897), Annie (1899), Fanny (1900), Walter (1902) and Kate (1905).



By 1901, the family were living in what is now 17 Tattams Lane. This photograph, (taken maybe in the 1920s) shows Louisa and probably William Alderman Snr., together with two of William's younger siblings, outside the family home.

At the time of the 1911 census, when he was 17 years old, William had left home, and was a farm worker on Deep Mill Farm near Great Missenden, where he worked for William Philips, a farmer who had himself been born in Swanbourne.

He signed up for military service at Aylesbury, joining the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He was in the 5th (service) Battalion, which had been formed in Oxford in August 1914, and placed under orders of the 42nd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division. On 21st May 1915, they landed at Boulogne.

They were engaged in various action on the Western Front, including in 1915, the Action of Hooge, which was the first flamethrower attack by the Germans, and then the second attack on Bellewaarde. In 1916, they were involved in the Battle of Delville Wood and the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, and in 1917, the first and second Battles of Passchendaele.

William must have returned home early in 1918, as somewhere during the first three months of the year, he married Mary E. Rawlins of Bandilands, in Brackley, Northants. Meanwhile, the Battalion were involved in further actions, and by 27 April 1918, they were reduced to cadre strength, and on 16th June 1918, they were transferred to 16th Division, and returned to England.



On 20 June 1918, the Light Infantry were absorbed into the 18th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment which was formed at Clacton. This new battalion was then moved to Aldershot to join the 49th brigade of the 16th Division on 2 July 1918. On 1st August, they were mobilised for war and landed in France and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including the Final Advance in Artois, which helped bring the war to an end.

However, on 11th September 1918, William was killed just before this final action.

Photograph of Private William Alderman, taken outside his parents' home.

He was buried at location VIII. H. 20 at Brown's Road, Military Cemetery, Festubert, Pas de Calais, France.



| Name | | Grade | Rank | Regt. No. |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| ALDERMAN William | | Oxford & Bucks Lt. Inf. R. | PL | 2028 1004770 |
| Medal | Ref. | Days | Remarks | |
| Victory | 4/1010 | 36 | | |
| Decorat | 46 | 4 | | |
| Dist | | | | |
| Theatre of War first entered in | | | | |
| Date of entry theatre | | | | |

A record of the medals awarded to William Alderman during his time with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and the Gloucestershire Regiment.