

William Thomas Hinton

Duke of Cambridge's Own 1st Battalion,
Middlesex Regiment

1876 – 1918



William Hinton was born in Swanbourne, probably in April 1876 and he was baptised at St Swithuns on 30th April. His parents were Joseph and Sarah Hinton (nee Higgins), who had married in 1859. They had at least six children but William was the only boy, having five older sisters - Mary Ann (1862), Emily (1864), Jane (1867), Louisa (1871) and Eliza (1874). His mother died aged 43 and was buried in Swanbourne on 12th Feb, 1881.

In 1871, before William was born, the family were living in Duck End, and in 1881, they were in Church Street (Winslow Road). William, aged 5, was described as a scholar. In 1891, they were probably in 20 Winslow Road, and William aged 15 was an agricultural labourer, like his father.

William has not been found in the 1901 census, but on 4th June, 1904, he married Emily Smith, (born c1881 in Devizes, Wiltshire) at the Primitive Methodist Church, Harrow Road, Kensington. In 1911, William and Emily Hinton were living at 6, St. Ervans Road, North Kensington. William, aged 35, was a stableman, living with wife Emily, aged 30, and four children, Cecil aged 6, Stanley aged 5, Reginald aged 3, and Winifred 8 months. The first three children were born in Paddington, but Winifred was born in Rutland. He had one further child, Doris who was born in Kensington in Jan 1913.

As a married man of 40, William would have been in one of the last groups of men to be conscripted under the 1916 Conscription Act. At the time of his enrolment, he was 40 years and 4 months old, and his address was 79, Wornington Road, Kensington. He gave his age as 41 when he enlisted at the White City on 9th March 1917. He gave his religion as Church of England, and his trade as stableman. His medical classification was Class C II. He was on home leave until 31st May, 1917, and then he embarked for France on 1st June, joining the Labour Corp Base Depot at Boulogne in 2nd June before going into the field on 5th June with the 250 Division Employment Company.

He seems to have suffered some kind of illness on 16th June, and was again a casualty on 18th August, 1917, being taken to No 1 General Hospital, Etretat, with a double hernia. He was brought back to England on the Hospital Ship Carrisbrook Castle. Further ill-health led to him being hospitalised in the Fulham Military Hospital, and then being deemed unfit for service on 24th April 1918 with a sarcoma of the pelvic colon (aggravated by, but not due to M.S.) and he was discharged from the army on 15th May with a weekly allowance of 27s 6d awarded for 28 weeks. He died on 18th July, 1918. His death certificate states he died at 79, Wornington Road, age 41 years, the informant being E. Hinton, the widow of the deceased who was present at the death. His occupation is stated as Private in the Labour Corps (Horsekeeper) and the cause of death as Influenza.