

Walter White Age 36

Walter White was probably born in 1882. The parish records show a Walter Charles White baptised on 28th May 1882. He appears to be the only Walter White living in Long Sutton in 1911.

(There is possible confusion because the enlistment papers suggest a birth date of 1888 and the name Walter John. However there is no evidence of a birth registration in that name.)

Walter White was born in Knole, the fifth son of Walter John and Caroline White. By the time he was baptised his mother, Caroline White was widowed. The 1891 census shows the three eldest sons, James (18), William (16) and Frederick (14), working as agricultural labourers and Caroline was a washer woman. Windford (11) and Walter (8) were still at school. By 1901, only Walter is still at home. Caroline is recorded as a 'monthly nurse' and Walter is listed as a groom.

Walter married Victoria May Russ on 10th November 1915 and their son, Stephen was born in Long Sutton in 1916. They lived in Upton after their marriage.

Walter White's service records survived the bombing of WW2. They show that he enlisted in May, 1916 and that he was a farm labourer at that time. His medical examination states that he was 5'5½" in height and weighed 134 lbs. His chest measurement was 36¾".

He was posted to the 1/7th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and landed in Boulogne on 30th November 1916. He was probably in action with the battalion during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line from mid- March until early 1917. About a month later he was wounded in action on 3rd May 1917. His

medical record shows that he was taken to No 6 Stationary Hospital at Frevent and transferred to the 16th General Hospital at Le Treport on 5th May. He was repatriated to a military hospital in England on the 12th. The record is not easy to read, but the Langport and Somerton Herald reported that he had been seriously wounded in the face and arm.

The record shows that he was back with the 7th Reserve Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment by March 1918, sailing on the SS Rowan and eventually arriving in Salonika in the early summer. He was posted to the 3rd Battalion on the 1st July 1918. Allied troops had been preparing for a major offensive intended to end the war in the Balkans. The offensive began in July but the British contingent did not play a significant part until early September. However by mid-September Walter had been taken ill and admitted to the 21st Stationary Hospital, just to the north of Sarigol and transferred to the 29th General Hospital on the 18th September. He died there of pneumonia, possibly a complication of influenza, on the 1st October. He was probably 36 years old.

He was buried in the Mikra British Cemetery which contains 1,810 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

His personal belongings were returned in February 1919 to his wife who was living in East Lambrook. Having one child she was allocated a pension of £1-0s -5d a week from 14th April 1919.