

No. 190575, Sapper WILLIAM CUTMORE

William Cutmore was born in Glemsford, Suffolk, in 1880 a son of Drewell Cutmore and Harriet Hartley. He had 8 brothers and sisters, the eldest of which, Charles Drewell Cutmore, moved to Little Cornard. Charles and his family remained in Little Cornard and are buried in the Churhyard.

In the 1901 Census, William was a boarder living at 79 Leyton Road, West Ham and working as a Platelayer for The Great Eastern Railway.

During the First World War he enlisted in Leyton, and was posted into the Wiltshire Regiment, given the No. 11781, and entered the theatre of war in France on 20th August 1915. He then volunteered into the 277th Railway Company, Royal Engineers (a standard gauge railway unit). This Company was formed in March 1916 and disbanded in August 1919. The job of railway engineers during the war was to keep the railways, to the front in good repair, constantly being shelled, (the Germans would have guns trained on important rail and road links). Nearly all engineer work was done an armed, because of the need to use both hands to work. A network, of standard gauge railway, was laid as close to the front as possible, to ease the load of the light gauge railways, which were more easily disrupted and over worked. The railways were an important link in the supply line from the Channel ports to the front, moving hundreds of tons of munitions, food, fodder and supplies up to the front, and moving wounded back to the hospitals and ports, every day.

William was wounded, when a stray shell hit his work party, in June 1917, at Poperinge, Belgium. He died of his wounds on 28th June.

In June/July, three groups of casualty clearing stations were placed near to Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, and were nicknamed by the troops as, Mendingham, Dozingham and Bandagham. At Dozingham, the group consisted of the 4th, 47th and 61st Casualty Clearing Stations, which were in use until early 1918. It was in the Dozingham C.C.S. that William died.

William was entitled to the 1915 Star, The British war and Victory Medals.

There are now 3,174 Commonwealth burials of The First World War in Dozingham Military Cemetery and 65 German graves of the same period.

