

PRIVATE FREDERICK WILLIAM TAYLOR

R/258858, Army Service Corps

Died aged 19 on 11 April 1917

Buried with honour at *Tewkesbury Cemetery*; C 15

Not commemorated in Tewkesbury either at the Cross or in the Abbey



Tewkesbury Cemetery, C-15



Army Service Corps

FREDERICK WILLIAM TAYLOR was born in Tewkesbury in 1898 to Frederick William Taylor and Theresa (also formerly Taylor; her forename was registered as Thirza at her birth and Thursa when she married in 1895). Both Frederick William senior and Theresa were born in Walton Cardiff and she was the daughter of the parish clerk; Frederick William junior was their only child. The family lived in one of the cottages made of *'iron and galvanised iron'* in modern Newtown Lane (10 Newtown, Ashchurch Road), from the time they were built in 1899; not surprisingly the area was dubbed *'tin town'*. Frederick William senior was then working as a general labourer. Frederick William junior was still at school in 1911 but subsequently worked for Mr. A. Edwards, a coal merchant of Tewkesbury, before he joined the Army. In 1911 Frederick William senior was a domestic gardener in the employ of Nathaniel P. Milne, owner of Ashchurch House. Indeed, such was his relationship that he and the chauffeur were tasked with standing vigil over the coffin of their employer in 1933.

Frederick was conscripted into the Army and enlisted initially in Tewkesbury in the Worcestershire Regiment. He was posted to the 10th

(Service) Battalion which had been formed at Worcester in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Army. The battalion was part of the 57th Infantry Brigade in the 19th (Western) Division and landed in France on 18 July 1915. However, there is no evidence that Frederick served overseas with the battalion and he was transferred instead to the Army Service Corps (ASC) on 27 February 1917. The prefix to his army service number suggests that he was posted to F Squadron, Remounts Service of the ASC, which was responsible for the provisioning of horses and mules to all other army units. The nearest depot was at Shirehampton, near Bristol, which dealt with horses received at Avonmouth.

Private Frederick William Taylor soon caught a chill which unfortunately developed into pneumonia and he died from influenza on 11 April 1917, a year before the main pandemic, at Foye House Hospital, Clifton, Bristol. Frederick was buried in *Tewkesbury Cemetery* and, in his case, family and friends were able to attend his funeral. His headstone incorrectly shows the name and badge of the Royal Army Service Corps; the "Royal" prefix was added in late 1918 in recognition of the vital contribution of the ASC during World War 1.