

## **G/61012 Private William Bettany, Middlesex Regiment**

William was born in Kingsley, Staffordshire in 1884 and came to Tewkesbury in 1912. He enlisted in the Royal Engineers (possibly the South Midland Division) on the 11 December 1915.

In early 1916 William is still in Tewkesbury, taking part in shooting matches as a member of the Tewkesbury Company of Volunteers against the Engineers.

He appears for the first time on the Roll of Honour published in the Tewkesbury Register as Sapper W. Bettany on the 30 December 1916. This would be around the time he was officially mobilized. First recorded as Lce. Corpl. W. Bettany in the Tewkesbury Register dated 7 April 1917.

William did not serve abroad with the Royal Engineers. He was transferred to the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment along with a group of others on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1917. He entered the theatre of war around the 22 Sept. 1917 as part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

He saw action at Passchendaele and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 1918, he was severely wounded under the following circumstances: -

*On the 2nd of January 1918 as part of C Company William was given a day off in camp. This was located as Savile Road, map reference 28.I.3.C.1.3 (east of Ypres). The following day at about 6 am. he was part of C company who were caught by a bomb that dropped on the road between Bavaria House & Frost House as they marched to work. The bomb killed 5 men; William was amongst the 26 who were wounded.*

William was sent back to England where was admitted to a Red Cross Hospital at Brettenham Park, Suffolk. He was then transferred to Mitton VAD Hospital on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 1918.

William was discharged from the army on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 1918 due to his wounds, recorded as *G.S.W. buttock, penetrating the abdomen*. He received a silver war badge, no. 385164. William was classed as 70% disabled (24/2/1920) and was also given a pension of 28/- per week, quickly reduced to 50% (20/-) by March 1922 it was at 30% (12/-) and now awarded for life. His wife by then was getting 5sh. 3d per week.

On his discharge William was living at Blenheim Villas, Barton Road, by 1921 he had moved to 1 Mount Pleasant and in 1923 he was living at Tal-y-Court, Cotteswold Road.

The following documents have been used to create this biography: -

Medal Index Card

Medal Roll

Pension Ledger & Card

Silver War Badge Roll

Service papers of Arthur Carter (G/61024 Middlesex Regiment)

Tewkesbury Register

War Diaries (WO 95/2417/5)

David Drinkwater, July 2025