



Woodford Remembers



William Leaton

(4th quarter) 1882 – 19 April 1917

Family

William was the third child (of seven) born to Charles and Fanny Leaton. Charles Leaton born in Kimbolton (1856) and married Frances Hall (b Great Stukeley 1852) in 1878. By 1881 the family had moved to Woodford and in 1891 lived near the village green, but by 1901 had moved to Long Row, in Newtown, Woodford. William's older siblings were Fanny and Harry, and the younger members of the family were Alfred James, Joseph, Sarah and Ada. William's mother died in the late autumn of 1902. In the 1911 census he lived in Oundle Road, Thrapston (as a boarder) and worked as a Furnace Labourer.

Army Service

William Leaton joined the 4th Battalion (later the 1/4th Battalion) enlisting in Thrapston on 14th/ 15th December 1914. His surviving record card suggests he was originally allocated regimental number 3686 but later service records show he was later allocated 200790. The Battalion moved to Egypt in December 1915 to defend Suez before entering into the Palestine Campaign. In 1917 the Battalion participated in the Battle of Gaza (and subsequent battles in that area until ultimately finishing the war in Beirut, September 1918). William was initially reported as being "wounded and missing" on 19 April 1917 before being recorded as Killed in Action (2nd Battle of Gaza). At the time of his death William was a Lance Corporal.

Burial / grave

Gaza Military Cemetery Grave XV.G.12

Dependants

None

Commemoration

Woodford War Memorial

Woodford St Mary's Church



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If you can help with more information please contact clerk@woodfordpc.co.uk