

SUMMERS, Willy

William John Summers was born in Membury in 1880. He was the son of George R Summers who was the miller at Rock Mills, Membury (born 1841 in Stockland) and his wife Elizabeth E Summers (born in Membury in 1843).

In 1881, the Summer family lived at Rock Mills – George R (40), Elizabeth E (38), Tom (11), Mary J (10), Emma L (9), Joseph (7), Edith R (5), and twins Millis S and Lily J (2), and William John (1).

In 1891, the miller is listed as Robert G (53) but it is the same man and his family Elizabeth (48), Thomas (21) working as the miller's assistant, Mellony S and Lillie A (12), William John (11), twins Rebecca and Fred J (9), Alice M (8), Florence L (6), Ethel M (4) and a 'boarder' Thomas Clarke (born in Membury aged 1) who was later to serve in the war too.

By 1901, William, aged 21, had moved and was a servant living in Bermondsey, London with Ellen Eliza Richards (32), Kate Louise Cridford (25), William Samuel Pile Holmes (28), Alice Deel (19) George Chown (19, and Frederick William Field (18)

In 1911, William aged 31 was a servant living at Boreham House, Boreham, Chelmsford with George R Thrift (42), Florence E Thrift (39) and their children Richard (15), Reginald (14), William (12), Bernard (11), Gilbert (8), Blanche (7) and Leslie (3). Also in the household were William R Thrift (36) and six other people, perhaps servants.

In the spring of 1911, William married Maude Eliza Fletcher in Chelmsford, Essex

He enlisted in 1915 aged 30 into the Army service Corps (No. 136570). He was living at Coombe Court, Witley, Surrey, and working as a motor driver. He was 5 feet 4 ½ ins. At that time, William and Maude had 2 children, John William (12.5.1912) and Alice (22.?.1915) He joined at Grove Park on 2 November 1915 and went into the Army Service Corps (No 136570) and continued as a driver.

He embarked at Southampton on the *Siptar* on 18 January 1916 and landed at Bolougne two days later on 20 January. There are some medical notes and a casualty form that is very difficult to read.

William died in Stepney in the spring of 1939.