



PRIVATE PHILIP WILLIS

SERVICE NO. TR/8/11646

53RD BATTALION, DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

DATE OF DEATH 25 January 1918 (Aged 18)

BATTLE

REGIMENT 53rd Battalion, Devonshire Regiment

DEATH Sadly, within a month of enlisting this “bright young fellow and a favourite with everyone” had died of cerebrospinal meningitis in Tidworth Military Hospital¹.

FAMILY DETAILS Philip, the son of Levi, a shepherd in 1901¹ and a waggoner in 1911,¹ and Sarah Willis, was born in Odiham on 6 November 1899¹. He had three older brothers and two older sisters¹. His father was a gardener at Broad Oak House and the family lived in The Cottage in the grounds¹. Perhaps because his three brothers were all serving at the Front¹, shortly after his 18th birthday Philip joined the 53rd (Young Soldier) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment on 29th December 1917.

MEMORIAL Odiham Cemetery and Odiham War Memorial

MEDALS

¹⁰¹ London Road Board School Admissions and Withdrawals Register

¹⁰² Hampshire Archives, ref. 130M87/A5Folio/page no, 4, National School Admission Registers & Log- Books 1870-1914

¹⁰³ London Road Board School Admissions and Withdrawals Register

¹⁰⁴ 1911 Census Odiham, Ref- RG14PN6246 RG78PN296 RD109 SD1 ED12 SN114

¹⁰⁵ FreeBMD. *England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915*

¹⁰⁶ Ancestry.com Civil Registration Birth Index, 1916-2005