



PRIVATE WILLIAM H GIBBS

SERVICE NO. 19412

3rd BATTALION, COLDSTREAM GUARDS

DIED 18TH JANUARY 1918 AGED 20

William Gibbs appears to have lived with his grandparents, Henry and Sarah Sherfield, from a very young age. In 1901, when he was 3, the family was living at Bury Farm on the Farnham Road. His grandfather was an agricultural labourer and his uncle, William, aged 21, was a labourer on the railway. His aunt, Emily, aged 18, like his grandmother, Sarah, had no occupation recorded on the census sheet¹. William had been born on 6 September 1897 and he attended London Road Board School from April 1905².

William had enlisted at Hartley Wintney³ and was posted to the 3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards, who were serving in France in the 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division. According to his obituary in the local paper, "Pte. Gibbs was a fine young fellow, standing 6ft. high and was only 20 years old" and before the war "he was a member of staff at Winchfield Post Office." The circumstances of his death "through being wounded and gassed," are also recorded. In November and December 1917 The Guards Division was engaged in the Battle of Cambrai and it is likely that this was where William received what proved to be fatal injuries.

William was awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal⁴. He is buried in the Duisans British Cemetery at Etrun, Pas de Calais, France.

¹ Source - 1901 census, Odiham, ref. Class: RG 13; piece: 1102;Folio: 78; page: 11

² Source - London Road Board School Admissions Register

³ Source – Ancestry.co.uk, UK Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

⁴ Source – British Army WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920, Ancestry.co.uk

