

William Charles BRADLEY

Born: 1876, Wellow

Parents: Charles Bradley and Jane Thomas

Last known address: Marks Corner, Northwood

Last known occupation: Road foreman with either Cowes or Newport Urban District Council

Service number: 31555 **Regiment:** 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment

Service history summary:

- enlisted: Newport – date unknown
- rank: Private
- decorations: British War Medal and Victory Medal,

Died: 18th July 1917

Age: 40

Buried: Northwood Cemetery

Family/descendants: William Charles Bradley was baptised in Thorley on September 17th 1876, having been born on July 21st. He was the eldest son of Charles and Jane Bradley and had four brothers and five sisters. His parents came from the New Forest in Hampshire, where they were married in 1868. William married Frances Moorman on October 12th 1901 and they had four children. The children all married and Frances had several grandchildren. Gordon died in 1989 at the age of 86, William junior in 1976 aged 72 and Stanley in 1986 aged 75. Vera married William Wallis in 1931 in Newport and died in 2002 at the age of 94.

Brothers: George (1878), Frederick (1882), Charles (1885) and James Edward (1887)

Sisters: Liza (c1868), Elizabeth (1869), Emily (1872), Ellen (c1874) and Beatrice (1880)

Wife: Frances (1878)

Children: Gordon Charles Evelyn (1902), William Hilton (1903), Vera Celia May (1908) and Stanley Victor (1911).

Northwood/Gurnard connection: the family moved to the Isle of Wight around 1875, between the births of Ellen and William. Jane died in 1906 at the age of 64 and Charles in 1909 aged 72, still living in Wellow. In 1891 William was a farm servant and in the 1901 census, he is shown as living with his older sister Ellen, her husband, Frank Moth, and their children including Frank junior *qv*, at Rolls Hill, Thorness; by now William was a bricklayer's labourer. When William and Frances married in 1901 William's address was given as Thorness and Frances lived at Marks Corner. In 1911 William and Frances were living at Marks Corner with their four children, Gordon, William, Vera and Stanley. William senior was a road foreman with a local district council.

After William's death, Frances was left with the four young children to bring up. She remained in Marks Corner, living at one time in Shrub Cottage with her eldest son, Gordon, a farm worker. Her youngest son, Stanley lived nearby in Myrtle Cottage. She was a member of the Primitive Methodist Chapel in the hamlet and died in 1963 at the age of 86.

War record: the date of William's enlistment is unknown as his service record has not survived but it would appear that he enlisted in Winchester. The 2nd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment returned from Gibraltar in September 1914 and were sent to the Western Front shortly after, landing at Zeebrugge on October 7th. They fought in many battles including the first Battle of Ypres in 1914, the battle of Loos in 1915 and the Battle of Albert in 1916. In April 1917 the Regiment was involved in the first and second battles of the Scarpe near Arras in north-western France. It was possibly in one of these battles that William received a fatal bullet wound to the head. He died in St Mary's Hospital in Paddington on July 18th that year. He is buried in Northwood Cemetery, where he was given a military burial.



Picture courtesy of Mr Barry Sowerby