

William Jukes



William Jukes was born in 1889 in Runcorn, Cheshire to Luke (born in Tipton, Staffs in 1855) and Elizabeth Jukes (born in Brierley Hill Staffs). The mother's maiden name on his GRO birth record is Millwood. In 1901, Luke was a wharf labourer at the docks and Elizabeth a laundress (washing). They lived at 3 Retreat Terrace, Brentford End with three children, William, Eliza, aged 6 and Harry, aged 4, plus a lodger, another dock labourer. By 1911, Luke is a labourer at the flour mills and William, a brewery vatman; they are living with Elizabeth at 1 Castle Place, off South Street in Isleworth. William's parents are recorded as having 13 children born alive, with 5 of these still alive in 1911. His sister, Mary Ann Jukes (aged 7) was reported in the Cheshire Observer, as dying from smallpox in May 1893 in Runcorn.

William married Rose Louisa Jacobs (born in Kensington in 1891, and in 1911, living in Hanwell) at Brentford Registry Office on 21st September 1912. They had three children: Rose Elizabeth (1912), Mary Louisa (1913) and Cissie Alberta (1915). In 1915, they resided at 8 and then 11 Queens Terrace Isleworth, before moving to Chiswick.

William enlisted on 20th July 1915 in Richmond into the C Coy, 22nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (G16583) He was 5'2", had a tattoo and gave his age as 28 years. He started his service in Mill Hill, was transferred to the Suffolk Regiment (12th Bn, 27633) on 1/4/1916 and to the London Regiment, 23rd Bn (702756) on 23/08/1916. He served at home after enlistment until 28/06/1916 and then was posted to France from 29/06/1916 to 9/05/1918. He is recorded as having several hospital visits for suspected haematuria (Aldershot in 1915) and scarlet fever (Rouen, June 1916). He was promoted to Lance Corporal in August 1915 for a short period.

His military history was chequered with periods in detention for alleged misconduct, including using abusive and threatening language, missing a tattoo and several periods of absence without leave. His most serious offence was not to return from his period of leave in November 1917, resulting in his apprehension by civil police in Chiswick (his wife and family had moved there from Isleworth) and being sentenced by a Field General Court Martial to 90 days FP1 without remission on 1st March 1918. Field Punishment 1 consisted of the convicted man being shackled in irons and secured to a fixed object, often a gun wheel or similar. He could only be thus fixed for up to 2 hours in 24, and not for more than 3 days in 4, or for more than 21 days in his sentence. William rejoined his unit on 20th April 1918 and was reported missing soon after. He was killed in action on 9th May 1918 and buried in Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery. He is also remembered in All Souls' Church,



*William Jukes's headstone,
Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, France.*

Northcote Road, St. Margarets. Rose remarried in Brentford in 1919 to Charles Loosley, They lived in Kensington and later in Hammersmith and had four children.

