



Private Joseph William New (202074) was born in 1884 and, baptised the same year on 11th May, in the village of Frampton, Dorchester. In 1891, Joseph's father Frederick is listed as a blacksmith and his mother, Martha, and the family were living in the village of Leigh in West Dorset. Joseph (6) had an older sister Fanny Eliza (21), a brother Frederick (17) who both appear to be their father's assistants, and he had a younger sister Mabel who was 7. By 1901, 16 year old Joseph was lodging in Evercreech in Shepton Mallet in Somerset where he was working as a domestic gardener and lodging with George and Alice Mould and their five children. Their eldest son (also called George Henry Mould) was born in Frampton, like Joseph, so there was possibly a prior connection between the two families. The 1911 Census locates him in Isleworth. Now calling himself William, he was boarding with George & Daisy Cottle and their two year old daughter Gladys at 4 Clarence Terrace, Worton Road and working as a market gardener. A few years later the First World War was threatening. Joseph William's army records give his address as 3 Gumley View, and his occupation as Head Gardener. Joseph attested in Isleworth on 10th December 1915 joining the 2nd/ 5th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry and moving to the Army Reserve the next day.

Before Joseph went off to war, he married Ellen Clarke on the 4th Oct 1916 in her Parish Church in Britford Wiltshire. Joseph's occupation on the marriage certificate is 'Private Durham Light Infantry' and his place of residence was Hipswell Camp Catterick Bridge in York, where Joseph was in army training, as the regiment was stationed there before going overseas to join the multi-national Allied Force in Greece, fighting the Bulgarians and their allies in the Balkans. This four year campaign was eventually brought to a successful conclusion on 29th September but harsh conditions, heat and disease took a very heavy toll.

On 31 October 1916, Joseph's Battalion moved to Salonika as a Garrison Battalion (raised from men too old, too young or too unfit for full military service). At 32 years, Joseph was in the first category. His battalion arrived in Greece in November and he would have spent 'the first four months on guard and road making duties'. From March 1917, Joseph's Battalion served along the front line. Both the DLI lines and those of the enemy - 'The Bulgars' - were almost 'impregnable'. 'Battle casualties were slight and it was disease, mainly malaria and dysentery that caused most deaths'. **Indeed, Joseph William died of pneumonia on the 19th Oct 1918 just a matter of weeks before the end of WW1 when he might have returned to his new wife and his family.**

Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal posthumously. He left £12. 2s. 6d to his widow Ellen. Joseph is buried in Greece at the Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery Ref 357. His widow, Ellen, lived at 6 Victoria Road in Feltham.

"Peace Perfect Peace with loved ones far away"

