

Private Arthur Aaron Williams

1887	Born 1887 at Wolverhampton. Son of Arthur H Williams and Anne Elisa
1891	Living in Major Street, Wolverhampton. His father working in the adjacent chemical works
1901	Living in 28 Johnson St, Wolverhampton. Working as a cycle fitter, aged 15.
1902	Working as a Brass Dresser in local chemical works
1904 7th Oct	Signed on for the Army at Bilston – 3 years (plus 9 years in Reserve). Royal Munster Fusiliers
1904 13 th Dec	Posted to Tralee, County Kerry, HQ of Royal Munster Fusiliers Education and training
1905 23rd Mar	Posted: 7822 Private Arthur Williams, 2 nd Battalion
1905 23 rd Mar	Posted to Gibraltar – served 2 years and 348 days there
1907 6th Mar	Posted back to UK
1907 6 th Oct	Transferred to Army Reserve
1911 April	By this date Williams family now living in 43 Heathfield Road Ellesmere Port Both William and his father working as Galvanised Sheet Packers in the new iron works
1914 Before	Moved to Dudley Terrace, Ellesmere Port. Parents and family moved to adjacent street 64 Princes Road, Ellesmere Port.
1914 6th Aug	WW1 mobilisation: Mobilised at Tralee, County Kerry
1914 7 th Aug	Posted: 7822 Private Arthur Williams, of 'C' Company, 2 nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers
1914 Aug	Battle of the Mons – 2 nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers fighting rear guard action covering withdrawal of the BEF.
1914 27 th Aug	taken prisoner at a place called Etreux in France on the historic retreat from Mons
1914 28 th Aug	10 o'clock on the Thursday night and after being knocked and cuffed about we were taken and put in a cloth factory in the village where the fight had taken place, and remained there twelve days. <i>The British Cemetery was made on the 28th by the survivors which would have included Private Williams</i>
1914 8 th Sep	On the 12th day we got the news that we were going to be removed to Germany. Arriving at this village (unnamed) we were placed in a church for the night
1914 9 th Sep	The following morning we again marched off about another twelve or thirteen miles to a town called Formies in France .
1914 10 th Sept	Here we were to entrain for Germany, so we were put in cattle trucks we were in the train about forty hours
1914 11 th Sep	Arrived in Sennelager , Westphalia on the Friday morning about 6 o'clock,
1915 20th Nov	we got our first bath, and got our clothes fumigated
1915 1 st Dec	Slept in tents until today, when we were moved into wooden huts
1915 15 th Mar	In Sennelager until today - told I was off for a working party then proceeded to a place called Dorsten , which was Detachment No.2 Camp of Dulmen
1915 19 th Sept	I remained in this place until September 19 th , when I was taken to Dorsten civil hospital in the town suffering from a bad attack of diabetes
1915 29 th Sept	After remaining in this hospital for about ten days, I was removed to a prisoner of war hospital at Wesel-on-Rhine .
1915 30 th Oct	I cannot express my joy, when I was told I was for England on account of my health. That day I passed two inspectors, and was told I was to hold myself in

	readiness for the next exchange
1915 21 st Nov	I was ordered to get ready to proceed to the exchange depot. So, proceeding to the station in the charge of an escort, I was taken to Düsseldorf and placed in hospital there, where I was told we had to stay until the authorities got the papers through from England. Here we remained ten days, the conditions being much the same as at Wesel.
1915 1 st Dec	we left for the exchange at Aachen . The hospital we were taken to was a lovely place. Everything there was clean and comfortable, with as much food as we could eat, with a nice smoking and sitting room, where we often had a bit of an accordion played by a Belgian private.
1915 4 th Dec	we passed the board of inspection and out of 99 there were 28 rejected .On leaving this place we were given whatever articles of clothes we were short of.
1915 5 th Dec	On the evening of the 5 th the names of the men who were rejected were read out. Some were sent back to camp, and some to hospital and those that had passed the board were taken to the station in a motor ambulances and placed in a hospital train and put to bed.. About midnight the train started for Flushing, travelling to Brussels .
1915 6 th Dec	Reaching the first station in Holland, we had a very good reception, stopping there two hours. About 5pm we reached Flushing, and we were taken aboard the hospital ship , where everything was ready for our comfort. The following morning at daybreak, we set sail and reached Tilbury docks the same evening, where again we had another fine reception.
1915 7 th Dec	Hospital in London .
1915 8 th -11 th Dec	Interviewed at length by the authorities as to his treatment as a POW (copies obtained)
1916 3 rd Jan	Still in London Hospital on 3 rd January 1916 when he wrote a lengthy letter to friends in Ellesmere Port (published in full in the local press)
1916 Feb	Arrives home in Ellesmere Port (reference to him being at home in publicity for a fundraising event at the Knott Hotel, EP. Time spent in Chester Infirmary, Hoole.
1916 26 th Aug	Officially discharged from the Army in Cork.
1917 4 th Sep	Passed away at home, 64 Princes Rd, EP, from complications resulting from diabetes and POW treatment