

## Private Arthur Aaron Williams

<b>1887</b>	Born 1887 at Wolverhampton. Son of Arthur H Williams and Anne Elisa
<b>1891</b>	Living in Major Street, Wolverhampton. His father working in the adjacent chemical works
<b>1901</b>	Living in 28 Johnson St, Wolverhampton. Working as a cycle fitter, aged 15.
<b>1902</b>	Working as a Brass Dresser in local chemical works
<b>1904 7<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	Signed on for the Army at Bilston – 3 years (plus 9 years in Reserve). Royal Munster Fusiliers
1904 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Posted to Tralee, County Kerry, HQ of Royal Munster Fusiliers Education and training
<b>1905 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar</b>	Posted: 7822 Private Arthur Williams, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion
1905 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Posted to Gibraltar – served 2 years and 348 days there
<b>1907 6<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	Posted back to UK
1907 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Transferred to Army Reserve
<b>1911 April</b>	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.
<b>1914 6<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	WW1 mobilisation: Mobilised at Tralee, County Kerry
1914 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Posted: 7822 Private Arthur Williams, of 'C' Company, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers
1914 Aug	Battle of the <b>Mons</b> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers fighting rear guard action covering withdrawal of the BEF.
1914 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	taken prisoner at a place called <b>Etreux in France</b> on the historic retreat from Mons
1914 28 <sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> by the survivors which would have included Private Williams</i>
1914 8 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Sep	The following morning we again marched off about another twelve or thirteen miles to a town called <b>Formies in France</b> .
1914 10 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Arrived in <b>Sennelager</b> , Westphalia on the Friday morning about 6 o'clock,
<b>1915 20<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	we got our first bath, and got our clothes fumigated
1915 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Slept in tents until today, when we were moved into wooden huts
1915 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	In Sennelager until today - told I was off for a working party then proceeded to a place called <b>Dorsten</b> , which was Detachment No.2 Camp of Dulmen
1915 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	I remained in this place until September 19 <sup>th</sup> , when I was taken to <b>Dorsten civil hospital</b> in the town suffering from a bad attack of diabetes
1915 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	After remaining in this hospital for about ten days, I was removed to a prisoner of war hospital at <b>Wesel-on-Rhine</b> .
1915 30 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <b>Düsseldorf</b> 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 <sup>st</sup> Dec	we left for the exchange at <b>Aachen</b> . 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Dec	On the evening of the 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <b>Flushing, travelling to Brussels</b> .
1915 6 <sup>th</sup> 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 <b>hospital ship</b> , 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 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Hospital in <b>London</b> .
1915 8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Interviewed at length by the authorities as to his treatment as a POW (copies obtained)
<b>1916</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Still in London Hospital on 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Officially discharged from the Army in Cork.
1917 4 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Passed away at home, 64 Princes Rd, EP, from complications resulting from diabetes and POW treatment