



Quenington (St Swithin) Cemetery,  
Gloucestershire

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## Driver William George **BARTLETT**

### Service Number 40940

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Bartlett family arrived in Quenington in the autumn of 1900 from Poulton and lived at the Grandage. As agricultural workers, over the previous 15 years the family had lived in Winson, Bibury, and Poulton in Gloucestershire, and Filkins in Oxfordshire.

William was born in the September Quarter of 1886 in Winson, Gloucestershire, the eldest child of Frank **BARTLETT** and Mary Annie **OKEY**. His siblings were Alfred (1888), Charles John (8 September 1890), Henry Francis (21 February 1893, also known as Francis Henry, and Frank Henry), Algey Edwin (23 February 1897, also known as Algy/Algie and Algernon), Albert J (1899, known as Bertie), and Joseph (1902, known as Joe).

He married Laura Lydia **OATLEY** on 24 February 1913 at the Parish Church, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire and emigrated to Australia soon afterwards with the permission of the British military authorities as he was still a reservist. With the outbreak of war, he was recalled to the UK in December 1914, mobilised into the Royal Field Artillery (RFA), Woolwich and sent to France. There was no issue from the marriage.

## **MILITARY SERVICE**

William, who was 5 feet 5 inches tall and a farm carter, enlisted at Dunfield, near Fairford on 1 January 1906 when he was 18 and a quarter years and joined 4 Depot Royal Field Artillery (RFA) at Newport, Monmouth three days later. The term was 12 years, three with the colours, and nine in reserve. He later transferred to 141 Battery RFA and Section B. During his service of 12 years 292 days he served at home (1 Jan 1906 - 11 March 1915; and 7 October 1918 - 19 October 1918), in France (19 March 1915 – 6 October 1918) and an unknown spell in Ireland as he was admitted to Cahir hospital 31 August-12 September 1917 with scabies.

He was wounded in action on 23 July 1917, suffered gun shot wounds to the head and a fractured spine, and spent time in military hospitals in Wimereux and Boulogne. On 30 August 1918 his wife received a telegram advising her that William was dangerously ill at 14 Stationary Hospital, Wimereux, France (British RAMC Hospital). He was returned to UK on 7 October 1918 and transferred to Tooting hospital. His Regiment and Service were given as Royal Field Artillery, “D” Battery. 58<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

In addition to the British, Victory, and 15 Star medals he was awarded the Military Medal (MM) for bravery on the Western Front on 28 January 1918.

Four of William’s brothers (Alfred, Charles, Henry and Algey) also served in the Great War and survived.

## **DEATH AND BURIAL**

William died, aged 32 years, at 1400 hours on 19 October 1918 at Tooting Hill Hospital, Church Lane, Tooting, London SW17 of a fractured spine caused by gunshot wounds “during warfare” and septicaemia. William’s mother pre-deceased him in September 1918 in Cirencester.

He is buried in a private grave in the South East section of Quenington (St Swithin) Cemetery, Gloucestershire.

His wife was repatriated to Sydney Australia at the end of 1919 as the widow of an Imperial Reservist.

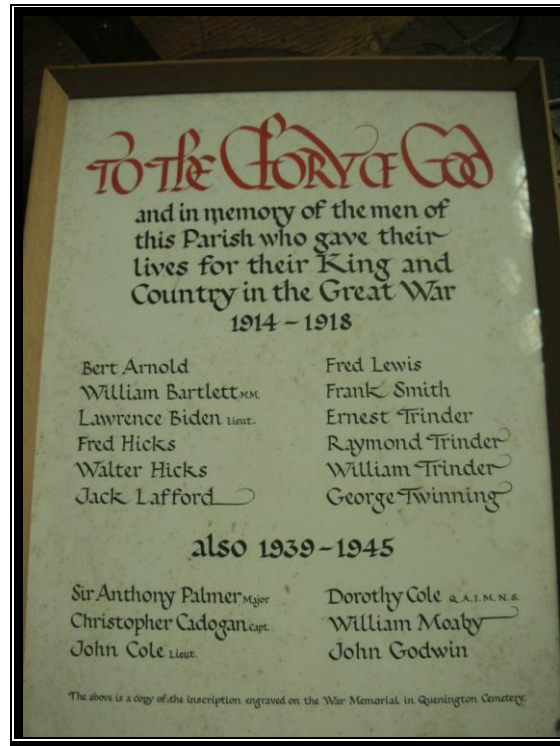


The inscription on his memorial reads:  
In  
Loving Remembrance  
Of  
Driver William Bartlett M.M  
RFA Died of Wounds Received in  
Action, Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 1918, aged 32  
Faithful Till The End

## COMMEMORATION

William is commemorated on the Quenington War Memorial, which is situated in the grounds of Quenington cemetery and visible to the right of the following photograph.





This is a copy of the inscription engraved on the War Memorial.

Other family members buried at Quenington include William's parents, and brothers Algie, Bertie (Albert), and Joe (Joseph).

Author: Baden Russell (August 2015)