



**Guardsman William Henry Letts 30459**



1st Battalion Grenadier Guards  
formerly Household Cavalry

Killed in action 13<sup>th</sup> October 1918

Age 38

St.Vaast Communal Cemetery, Extension Row A Grave 4.

William Henry was the second son of nine children born to Benjamin and Mary Ann Letts.

The family lived on Windsor Street next to the entrance to the Wesleyan Chapel. It was here William was baptised on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1879.

William would have attended the Wesleyan Day School. At the age of 12 he is working as a farm labourer probably at one of the farms on the Lutterworth Road next to where the family lived.

In the 1901 census William has a skilled job working in a dye works most likely the local Sketchley dye works.

In 1902 he married Louisa and in the following April their son Percy was born.

Sadly, either at the birth or shortly afterwards Louisa died.

William remarried in 1909 to Ann Hoxford of Corley, Warwickshire. The family made their home at 11 Salem Rd (now 22) and their first son William was born in 1910.



Salem Road, Burbage

Shortly after the outbreak of war in September 1914 a second son Harold was born.

Conscription for married men age up to 51 started in June 1916. William was thirty-seven. He was enlisted at Hinckley and joined the Grenadier Guards 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, leaving his job at the dye works and wife and three young sons.

By early 1918 the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion were serving in France.

By October 1918 the war was turning in favour of the Allies. Along with many of the Burbage fallen in many battalions William fell during one of the many battles on the Hindenburg Line on the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

William was one of the 1286 that were killed in action with the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.



St Vaast Communal Cemetery

His wife Ann received a small Army pension and moved with the three small sons to 67 Coventry Road where she worked in the Hosiery Industry up to her death in 1948.

Ann survived seeing her youngest son Harold die as prisoner of war on the Thai/Burma Railway in 1943.

The Letts are the only father and son from two wars to be on the Burbage Memorial.



