



Private William James Thomas Neal



3rd Kings Own Hussars

Killed in action Wednesday 9th October 1918

Naves Communal Cemetery extension,
France Plot 1 Row D Grave 3

Age 23

Burbage War Memorial

Congregational Church Memorial

William was the eldest son of twelve children of Thomas and Emma Neal

Born in Hinckley in 1895 the family lived at Greens Yard, so it is presumed William attended one of the local Hinckley schools.

His father a native of Burbage was an omnibus driver and the family lived in the town.

By the 1911 census the family had moved to a property on Workhouse Lane, Burbage near White House Farm. His Father was now employed as a domestic coachman. The younger siblings attended the Burbage National School and the Congregational Church.

William was employed as a shoe hand in 1911.

By the time he enlisted in Hinckley he was living in Aston Flamville. Perhaps he was working on one of the local farms as he was posted into the Hussars and may have had experience with horses.

The 3rd Kings Own Hussars were an old established regiment and by 1915 had transferred to the second cavalry division.

From September to the middle of October the division were engaged in the battles to capture the St Quinten Canal and the land around Cambrai.

On the last day of the battle, 9th October of October William was killed in action.

The Cemetery of Naves holds 319 British graves. William was interred there after the war when the extension was built.



Naves Communal Cemetery Extension



Naves Communal Cemetery



Congregational Church Memorial

In 1924 Lilian, Thomas younger sister died age 20 and his name was added to her gravestone at St Catherine's Church, Burbage.

In January 1927 the members of the Burbage Congregational Church erected a new organ in memory of the WW1 fallen on which Thomas Neal's name was included.

