

<i>Name</i>	William James PAXTON
<i>Birth Place</i>	Biddlesden, Bucks
<i>Occupation 1911</i>	Groom
<i>Date of Birth</i>	Third quarter of 1885
<i>Date Enlisted</i>	8 December 1915



<i>Parents</i>	Thomas PAXTON and Bessie Ann PAXTON (née EAGLESTONE)
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<i>Married</i>	Alice May SHIRLEY on 13 April 1911 at Northampton Register Office
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*Information from the National Roll of the Great War*

PAXTON, W. J, Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery

Joining in May 1916, he proceeded to the Western Front in the following August, and there took part in the Battles of the Somme, Arras, Vimy Ridge and Ypres and minor engagements. Invalided from the Army suffering from tuberculosis in November 1917, he unhappily died on February 11th 1918, and was entitled to the General Service and Victory Medals.

"Steals on the ear the distant triumph song."

Church End, Bugbrooke, Northants.

*Additional Information*

William PAXTON was one of nine surviving children of Thomas PAXTON, a farm labourer, and his wife Bessie, who died in early 1908.

In April 1911 he married Alice SHIRLEY, originally from Bedfordshire, but living and working in Bugbrooke by then and they set up home in Church End, with the first of their two children, Arthur James, born on 20 January 1912. Edith Marjory followed on 1 November 1914, by which time war had broken out.

William attested as a private soldier (Gunner) for service in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 9 December 1915, no doubt prompted – as were many others – by the announcement of imminent conscription. He was allocated number 86432 and sent home to await mobilisation. He declared previous service with the Buckinghamshire Yeomanry and his civilian employment as a 'Motor Driver'.

He was eventually mobilised on 24 May 1916 and after training was posted to the Western Front from 25 August that year, remaining in an Army 'pool' of reserves until posted again, to 37 Siege Battery on 25 February 1917. He was invalided home on 19 October that year and discharged on 29 November as 'No longer physically fit for war service'. He died in Northampton General Hospital on 11 February 1918, apparently of Tuberculosis, and his death was reported in the *Northampton Mercury* of 15 February.

He was awarded the Silver War Badge, number 273748, as listed on 14 November 1917. He also qualified posthumously for the British War Medal and the British issue of the Allied Victory Medal, sent to his widow in December 1924, by which time she had re-married, to Andrew EALES (in early 1920).