

ST JAMES CHURCH TAUNTON

WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL PROJECT

Cecil James Adams



Name: Cecil James Adams

Rank: Private

Service Number: 3/7196

Regiment: Somerset Light Infantry

Battalion/Unit number: 1st Battalion

Date/year of Birth: c. 1884

Place of Birth: Taunton, Somerset

Place of Residence: Court 5, North Street, Taunton

Date of Death: 6th July 1915

Place of Death: Near Boesinghe, Flanders

Burial/Memorial: Talana Farm Cemetery (This is a small cemetery contained 515 identified graves first used by the Somerset Light infantry in June 1915)

Cecil James was born in about 1884 in Taunton. He was the son of George Adams and his wife Jane. George was a thatcher born in 1842 in Curry Mallett and apprenticed in the village where he learned his trade. George moved eventually to Taunton and by 1888 was living in the Elms Cottages at Staplegrove, where he and Jane raised their family.

Cecil had two brothers as indicated by the census, William Simon and Victor. Both Cecil and William died within the first year of the conflict.

Cecil married Francis Mary Mapledoram in 1907 and he appears in the 1911 census living in three rooms at No. 5 court, North Street with his wife and a 6 year old child, James Mapledoram from Cardiff. Both were working Cecil as a van driver and Frances as a patent collar worker.

Cecil was a member of the Somerset National Reserve and on the outbreak of war joined the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry on 28th August. His address was given as 15 Roughmoor Cottages, Frieze Hill, which was his parents address and also the address also given for his brother William. (William had re-enlisted in the 17th Lancers where he had served previously for 7 years).

The 1st Battalion embarked for Le Havre in August 1914 and by April 1915 was engaged in the Second Battle of Ypres, renowned for being the first time gas attacks formed part of the German offensive. Cecil died on 6th July and was buried at Talana Farm cemetery with 32 other members of his battalion. His wife received the following letter from E. Stringer, his platoon Sergeant on 24th July:

"It has come to be my painful duty to write to you, on behalf of your son, who went into action with us on the 6th of July. I am very sorry to tell you that your son was killed in that action. I must also tell you that your son died as a man, and that his death was painless. He is buried with 32 other men of the regiment. I must tell you that I was sorry to lose him, as he was a credit to my Section - B Company - and I send you our deepest sympathy."



Talana Farm Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium