**William Alfred Clark**

William Alfred Clark, born in Coates, Sussex in 1895, was the fifth of seven children of William George Clark and his wife Emily. His father, who was born in Watford, was a domestic coachman and the family spent many years in Sussex. By 1911, when the three oldest children had left home, the remainder of the family moved to Hertfordshire, to 25 Chalk Hill, Oxhey. The coach and horse was rapidly being replaced by motor transport so William’s father now earned his living as a tobacconist and confectioner. William, who was sixteen, was employed as a merchant’s clerk.

William enlisted in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and served as Lance Corporal 07664. In 1918 he married Dorothy Ada Bish in Watford, just a few months before he was killed in an explosion as he was moving a German land mine. Dorothy was a typist and shorthand writer, the third of five children living with her family at 45A Villiers Road, Oxhey. She remained there after William’s death.

William was buried at Lessines Communal Cemetery and is commemorated on the Bushey Memorial and at St Matthew’s Parish Church.

