Gunner Alfred GRUNDELL-GRAHAME

(Royal Field Artillery)



"THERE IS NO DEATH WHAT SEEMS SO IS TRANSITION"

Alfred Grundell-Grahame was born Alfred Cass Grundell in 1892 to Joseph Grundell and Alice Maud Cass. Alice was the illegitimate daughter of Mary Cass. Shortly after Alice Maud's birth her mother Mary Cass married Oliver Hargreaves. They had several other children and Alice Maud was later known as Hargreaves but reverted to her birth name when she married in 1892. The space for her father is left blank. The 1901 Census shows Alice Maud and her son Alfred living with William Sparling Halmshaw at 5 Timothy Lane, Upper Batley. Alfred is listed as the adopted son of William Sparling Halmshaw. In 1903 Joseph Grundell divorced Alice Maud. His divorce statement accuses his wife of habitually committing adultery with William Sparling Halmshaw since 1894 at several addresses including one at Harrogate. Halmshaw was ordered to pay £57-11-9,

the equivalent of about £6000 in today's money. At some point after 1903 Alice Maud and Halmshaw must have parted company as she then marries William Stokes Grahame in the Holbeck area of Leeds in 1905. On the 1911 census Alice Maud is living in South Manchester with Charles Waagner, a Civil Engineer born in Austria. William Stokes Grahame and his stepson Alfred, who is now known as Alfred Grundell-Grahame do not appear on any census for 1911. However, several members of the Hargreaves family had now moved to South Manchester before 1911 including Alice Maud's half-brother Wilfred Hargreaves. He enlisted in Manchester and was killed in 1917.

After the war many of the Hargreaves family moved to the Isle of Wight. Alice Maud also moved there and died in 1962.

Alfred Grundell-Grahame enlisted in Hyde, Cheshire. His Regiment, the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Field Artillery moved out from their barracks in Colchester Garrison in August 1914, when WW1 began. The brigade consisted of three batteries; the 39th, 68th and 88th Batteries. The XIV Brigade was part of the 4th Division of the British Army at the start of WW1 and was sent to France in the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914. The brigade consisted of men on horses and horse-drawn field guns, followed by horse/mule-drawn ammunition wagons. The 4th Division landed in France during the 23rd-24th August, 1914.

Alfred Grundell-Grahame died on the 8th of November, 1914. He is buried at Neuilly- Sur-Seine New Communal Cemetery, Haute de Seine, France. His details are given as Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 68th Battery, 14th Brigade, Service Number 62588. His name appears on the Batley War Memorial Addenda.

Researcher

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