

**Private Alfred William Ludlow**  
**Regimental number: 18734**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment**

**born: 11 July 1895 - died: 30 April 1916**

Private Alfred William Ludlow was born on 11 July 1895 in Lambeth, London and baptised on 25 August of the same year at St Matthew's Brixton, in the borough of Lambeth.<sup>1</sup> He was the son of Alfred and Mary Ann Ludlow. His father, Alfred James, was born in about 1870 in either Cassington, Oxfordshire or London,<sup>2</sup> the son of James Ludlow.<sup>3</sup> His mother, the former Mary Ann Marriott, was born in about 1873 in Moulton, Lincolnshire,<sup>4</sup> the daughter of William Marriot.<sup>5</sup> Alfred and Mary Ann were married on 27 January 1895 at St Saviours in Brixton Hill.<sup>6</sup> They had eight children, one of whom died in childhood: Alfred William, Cecil James (born on 11 May 1898),<sup>7</sup> Albert Edward (born in 1900),<sup>8</sup> Harold Norman (born in 1903),<sup>9</sup> Bertie Ernest (born in 1908),<sup>10</sup> Gladys May (born in 1910, but died in 1911),<sup>11</sup> Hilda Marie (born in 1913)<sup>12</sup> and Stanley C. (born in 1914).<sup>13</sup>

When Alfred and Mary Ann were married, Alfred was a signal fitter.<sup>14</sup> By 1901, he was a railway porter<sup>15</sup> – an occupation that he continued for at least the next decade.<sup>16</sup> The family had moved from London and was living on Station Road in Peterborough, Northamptonshire, in 1901, where Alfred was educated at the Peterborough Council School.<sup>17</sup> Ten years later the family was at the same address and Alfred, at age 15, was an assistant butcher working for the retail butcher, London Central Meat Company.<sup>18</sup> He later work in Market Harborough.<sup>19</sup>

On 25 May 1915,<sup>20</sup> he enlisted as a Private in the Northamptonshire Regiment in Market Harborough, Leicestershire.<sup>21</sup> The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Regiment landed in France in early September 1915<sup>22</sup> and Alfred joined the unit there on 5 October of the same year.<sup>23</sup> He died in France just seven months later, just before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

In April 1916, his Battalion was stationed near Wulverghem in Belgium.<sup>24</sup> At the end of April, the enemy launched a gas attack, followed by heavy bombardment, causing casualties. Perhaps Sydney was wounded in this attack because he died of wounds at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 30 April.<sup>25</sup> Sydney lost two comrades from his battalion the same day: Lance Corporal Amos Sydney Lenton and Lance Corporal Harold Pickford.

One of Alfred's comrades, Second Lieutenant H. M. Harvey, said of him:

He was hit in the thigh by a stray bullet. He was cheerful at the time when he was taken to the dressing station. His loss will be felt by his comrades out here, as he was very popular in his platoon; he was always cheerful and willing, and showed great coolness under danger, and for that reason he was chosen as one of our company's bombers.<sup>26</sup>

Alfred was buried in Bailleul cemetery (Plot 2, Row D, Grave 129).<sup>27</sup> Bailleul is in France, close to the Belgian border. It was occupied on 14 October 1914 and became an important railhead, air depot and hospital centre. Several Casualty Clearing Stations, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian, were quartered there for considerable periods. The earliest Commonwealth burials at Bailleul were made in April 1915. An extension was built and burials continued until April 1918, and occurred again in September and after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from the neighbouring battlefields.<sup>28</sup>

A letter was sent to his mother to notify her of his death.<sup>29</sup> Alfred was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>30</sup>

Alfred's younger brother, Cecil, also served in the Great War. He left his job as a bus conductor and enlisted in the Northamptonshire Regiment as soon as he turned 18.<sup>31</sup> He enlisted on 12 May 1916, the day after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, his attestation was not approved until January 1917. About this time he transferred to the Bedfordshire Regiment. He served in England until June 1917, when he was sent to France. He returned in England in November and was hospitalised in London for nearly four months with trench feet. He served in England until his discharged with a disability (disordered action of the heart) in October 1919. He had transferred to The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) – probably sometime in 1919. Cecil was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Alfred William Ludlow

<sup>2</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Alfred William Ludlow, Registration district: Peterborough, Registration District Number: 170, Sub-registration district: Peterborough, ED, institution, or vessel: 20, Household schedule number: 9, Piece: 8685; "1891 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Alfred J. Ludlow, Registration district: Lambeth, Sub registration district: Brixton, ED, institution, or vessel: 14, Piece: 409, Folio: 148, Page Number: 55. He was baptised in London in 1873 with his younger brother. "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Alfred James Ludlow.

<sup>3</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 August 2015), entry for Alfred James Ludlow, Registration district: Lambeth, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1d, Page: 393

<sup>4</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for Alfred William Ludlow

<sup>5</sup> "UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 6 December 2015), entry for Alfred William Ludlow

<sup>6</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," entry for Alfred James Ludlow

<sup>7</sup> "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Cecil James Ludlow

<sup>8</sup> "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813-1912," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Albert Edward Ludlow, Register Type: Parish Registers

<sup>9</sup> "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813-1912," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Harold Norman Ludlow, Register Type: Parish Registers

<sup>10</sup> "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813-1912," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Bertie Ernest Ludlow, Register Type: Parish Registers

<sup>11</sup> "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813-1912," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Gladys May Ludlow, Register Type: Parish Registers; "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Gladys M. Ludlow, Registration district: Peterborough, Inferred County: -, Volume: 3b, Page: 138

<sup>12</sup> "Northamptonshire, England, Baptisms, 1813-1912," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Hilda Marie Ludlow, Register Type: Parish Registers

<sup>13</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Stanley C. Ludlow, Registration district: Peterborough, Inferred County: Northamptonshire, Volume: 3b, Page: 387

<sup>14</sup> "England & Wales, FreeBMD Marriage Index, 1837-1915," entry for Alfred James Ludlow

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- <sup>15</sup> "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 27 August 2015), entry for Alfred J. Ludlow, Registration district: Peterborough, Sub-registration district: Peterborough, ED, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 1463, Folio: 87, Page Number: 19, Household schedule number: 121
- <sup>16</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for Alfred William Ludlow
- <sup>17</sup> "UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919," entry for Alfred William Ludlow
- <sup>18</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for Alfred William Ludlow; "Kelly's Directory of Northamptonshire 1906," Kelly's Directories Ltd., p 267
- <sup>19</sup> "UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919," entry for Alfred William Ludlow
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>21</sup> UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 25 August 2015), entry for Alfred William Ludlow
- <sup>22</sup> "The Northamptonshire Regiment," The Long, Long Trail (<http://www.1914-1918.net/northants.htm>; accessed 26 August 2015)
- <sup>23</sup> UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919," entry for Alfred William Ludlow
- <sup>24</sup> "UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 August 2015), Regiment or Unit: Northamptonshire Regiment, Sub Unit: 7th Battalion, Division: 24th Division, Diary Entry Start Date: 1915, Diary Dates: 1915 Aug - 1919 Jun, Piece Description: Piece 2218/2: 7 Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (1915 Aug - 1919 Jun), Piece Number: 2218
- <sup>25</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS chaplains' journal indicates that he died on 29 April, however, all other military records indicate that he died on 30 April. "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," *Library and Archives Canada*, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 73
- <sup>26</sup> "UK, De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919," entry for Alfred William Ludlow
- <sup>27</sup> "Commonwealth War Graves Commission," ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org); accessed 17 August 2015), entry for Ludlow, A.W., Service No: 18734
- <sup>28</sup> "Bailleul Communal Cemetery, Nord," Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/2000047/Bailleul%20Communal%20Cemetery,%20Nord>; accessed 5 August 2015)
- <sup>29</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 70
- <sup>30</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 26 August 2015), entry for Alfred W. Ludlow
- <sup>31</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 28 August 2015), entry for Cecil James Ludlow. Unless otherwise stated, all information about Cecil's military service comes from this record.
- <sup>32</sup> "UK, WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk): accessed 28 August 2015), entry for Cecil Ludlow