

# William Christopher White

Born in North Bradley 1892

Killed in Action near Arras, France 18 April 1917

Chris, as he was known to his family, was a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, 108<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery. He was described as having a bright and cheery nature and regularly attended North Bradley Baptist Church. Having been employed as a Clerk in a grocer's, he signed on in October 1915 and was sent to France in September 1916. Siege Batteries of the RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, most often employed in destroying enemy artillery or important enemy constructions. This will have made them targets for similar enemy artillery. Some records say Chris died of wounds, others that he was killed in action, the date of his death showing that it was in the early weeks of the Battle of Arras that he lost his life. He was buried in Tilloy British Cemetery, Tilloy-les-Mofflaines, just south-east of Arras, a cemetery begun in April 1917 by fighting units. He lies in a plot largely representing burials from the battlefield. On his headstone his parents had the following engraved: "Not my will O Lord, but thine be done". He is also commemorated on the North Bradley memorials.

See William Christopher White's Life Story at:

<https://livesofthefirstworldwar.org/lifestory/5137395>

## **Father: James White**

Born in Hilperton, he had a tough start in life. His father died when he was only 13 and there were 4 other children in the family under working age.

From his twenties, he was a Power Loom Tuner (or Fixer), a man who maintained the looms in a woollen mill.

## **Mother: Eliza Eyers/Eyres/Ayers**

Born in Yarnbrook.

Married in 1874 in North Bradley, their first two daughters were born in Hilperton or Trowbridge. They moved to Yarnbrook Road, North Bradley about 1879, so their 7 later children were born there. A few doors away from Kings Farm, it was a slightly larger house than many poorer families lived in, also they were still there in 1911 (the latest record seen), which suggests the family was doing better than some. Chris was their youngest son.

### **G/father**

Daniel White  
b. Hilperton,  
Weaver

### **G/mother**

Elizabeth ?  
b. Hilperton

### **G/father**

Stephen Eyers  
b. Yarnbrook,  
Agric. Labourer

### **G/mother**

Joanna or Hannah  
Jefferys  
b. ?

Chris had eight brothers and sisters, his father had at least six – there are relatives out there somewhere!