



William Christopher White Gunner 61562, Royal Garrison Artillery

William Christopher White (Chris) was born in North Bradley 1892, his birth being registered in the March Quarter of that year in the Westbury Registration District. He was the son of James and Eliza White (Nee Eyres) of North Bradley. It is probable that Christopher was baptised in North Bradley Baptist Church since he was a regular worshipper at the church before joining the army.

According to the 1901 Census the family were living in North Bradley and comprised:-

James White, Head, 44, Loom Fixer in Cloth Mill, born in Hilperton; Eliza, Wife, 44, born in North Bradley; Ada F., Daughter, 23, Shader in Cloth Mill, born in Trowbridge; Gertrude D., Daughter, 20, Dress Maker, born in North Bradley; Wilfred G., Son, 16, Bakers Assistant, Born in North Bradley; May E., Daughter, 14, Drapers Apprentice, born in North Bradley; Howard J., Son, 11, born in North Bradley, Christopher W., Son, 9, Born in North Bradley; Winifred B., Daughter, 3, born in North Bradley.

The 1911 Census records the family at, Yarnbrook Road, North Bradley as follows:-

James White, Head, 54, Loom Tuner, born in Hilperton; Eliza, Wife, 54, born in Bradley; Howard, Son, 21, Journeyman Tailor, born Bradley; Christopher, Son, 19, Grocer's Assistant, born in Bradley; Winifred, 13, Daughter, Scholar, born in Bradley; Lily Cardy, Daughter, 36, born in Hilperton; Wilfred Cardy, Grandson, 9, born in Bradley; Christopher Cardy, Infant Grandson, Born in Bradley.

Chris's parents married in 1874 and there were nine children born to the couple.

William enlisted at Trowbridge on the 25th October 1915 after receiving his call up notice and was assigned to the Royal Garrison Artillery. At the time of enlistment, he was working as a Clerk.

Below is a copy of the signature appearing in William's attestation papers.

On the 10th November 1915 William Christopher joined his unit in Portsmouth. On 27th April 1916 he was posted to H169 Royal Garrison Artillery. On the 3rd September 1916 he was further deployed to 108 battery

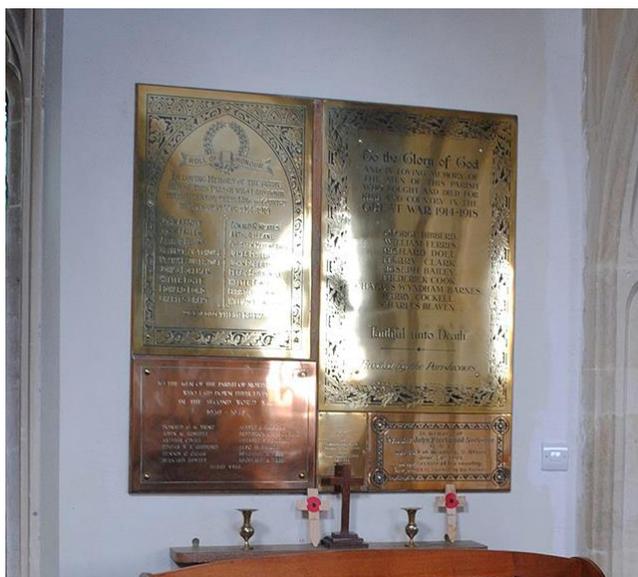
Royal Garrison Artillery in preparation for deployment to France. On the front-line these batteries were responsible for heavy shelling of enemy targets and naturally were a target of bombardment themselves.

On 3rd February 1917 William was deprived 3 days pay for breaking off parade without permission at 10 a.m.

William Christopher White was transferred to a field hospital on the 18th April 1917 but died of wounds on the same day. He was aged 25. He had been wounded in the early stages of Battle of Arras in France.



Chris is buried at Tilloy British Cemetery, Tilloy-Les-Mofflaines, Pas de Calais, France. He is buried in Plot number I. E. 38. His headstone has the inscription “Not My Will O Lord But Thine Be Done”.



William Christopher White is commemorated on the North Bradley Memorials and is named in the North Bradley Section of Diocese of Salisbury Memorial Book held in Salisbury Cathedral.

A letter to Eliza White (mother) at Mount Pleasant, North Bradley was sent from Dover Station on 20th November 1917 accompanying William Christopher’s personal affects. These included a disc, letters, photos, tobacco pouch, 2 purses, pencil, watch and guard, cigarette case, 2 religious books, cards, gunnery instruction (written), and coin.

A letter requesting information to enable the presentation of the “death plaque and memorial scroll” was sent to Eliza White at the same address on the 11th April 1919.

On the 15th April 1919 James White father signed a declaration of all of William Christopher’s living relatives in certain categories. This included names, age, address and relationship. The table below shows the information recorded in the declaration.

Surname	Given Names	Relationship	Age	Abode	
				Town & County	Street
White	James	Father		North Bradley	Mount Pleasant
White	Eliza	Mother		North Bradley	Mount Pleasant
White	Horace James	Brother	36	Kings Lynn, Norfolk	1 Silfield Terrace
White	Howard John	Brother	38	Gunner 1909334, No. 5 AAP Mess, Exp. Forces	
Cardy	Cora Lily	Sister	40	Bath, Somerset	4 Rockcliffe Avenue
Knowles	Ada Florence	Sister	39	Bath, Somerset	11 Dartmouth Avenue
Hobbs	Gertrude Dorcas	Sister	34	Corsham	High Street
White	Winnie Blanch	Sister	21	North Bradley	Mount Pleasant

On 18th August 1921 Chris’s mother, Eliza, took delivery of the British Star and Victory Medal that were granted in respect of her son’s military service.