

## W.T. Shute, SWB – 20<sup>th</sup> August 1918 (Age 29).

### 31668 – Private William Trewin Shute – 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, South Wales Borderers

There is some uncertainty with the records but there is only one 'William Shute' that appears among the war dead of the SWB.

He was born in 1889 at Aberavon (likely 23 Church Street) to George Thomas Shute (born 1857), a tin plate roller, and Mary Shute (née Davies, born 15/12/1862). George and Mary were married in 1888. 'Trewin' was William's Grandmother's maiden name (Alice Trewin).

In 1901 he was the only noted child at 47 Wern Square, Aberavon. By 1911, William Trewin Shute and his parents were listed at 'Redbrook, Bedwas' and William was noted as a Tin Plate Catcher. Father George was still a tin plate roller. In those days, the Civil Parish of 'Bedwas' included Waterloo in the sub-district of Mynyddislwyn. We believe Redbrook was situated off the Newport Road near the turning for Waterloo and that William and his Father worked at Waterloo Tin Plate Works. Records show that William joined the South Wales Borderers in 1914 at Newport.

The Machen memorial also lists William but notes him as being in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion SWB. However, military records show he was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and, in any event, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion had no casualties on the 20th August 1918, the day he was killed, as they were training away from the front line.

In August 1918 the British army was making rapid advances and trench warfare had given way to a war of rapid movement. The diary for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion shows them in action between Garbeon and Meteren-Becque. From positions near Outtersteene Ridge the battalion attacked the German positions. The advance began well, being '*excellently carried out with plenty of dash and initiative by individuals and junior commanders. Enemy machine guns were rushed and outflanked and rifle grenades were freely used and found of great value*'. The advance had reached the Merris-Outtersteene road bridge, from where, *at 1.32 pm the code word was received to move forward.*

*The Battalion succeeded in their objective but suffered 132 killed, among them William, fatally wounded in the head. He is buried at Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension, Bailleul, France alongside 3 other SWB fallen and 10 unknown soldiers.*



William's Father George died in 1937 aged 80 and his Mother Mary was listed at 64 William Street, Trethomas in 1939. She was living with Mary J [Shute] Rees (b.09/12/1894) and Thomas Rees (b.12/04/1888) who had married in 1929. We can't establish if Mary J was her daughter or niece. William's Mother died in Caerleon in 1951 aged 89.