



William Lucas

Private SD/4040 Royal Sussex Regiment 11th Battalion, 39th Division

Died 3rd September 1916 aged 18

William, the third of Albert and Sarah Lucas' six children, was baptised at West Grinstead Church on 17th April 1898. . Albert and Sarah's children were Albert (1891), Agnes (1894) **William** (1898), Olive (1901), Thomas (1904) and James (1906). In 1901 the family were living at Trenchman's Farm, West Grinstead and William was three years old. Albert was employed as a road foreman for the County Council, a post which he still held in 1911. By the 1911 Census William, aged 13, had left school and was working as a farm labourer. He was living with his family at Black House, Shipley.

William enlisted at Hastings, initially into the 13th Battalion, one of the South Downs Battalions*, but by the time he died he had been transferred to the 11th. The 11th Battalion was involved in heavy fighting on the Ancre, part of the Somme campaign in early September 1916, and took part in an attack on 3rd September which initially saw gains before being pushed back by machine gun and rifle fire, suffering heavy casualties . William was killed in action in this offensive on Beaucourt Ridge and has no known grave. Three Shipley men were lost on this day, the others being John and Edgar Heasman. In November 1916 the Reverend Baker paid tribute to William and all the Shipley men who had given their lives during this year of terrible losses.

William named his father as his next of kin and it was Albert who received his effects and war gratuity.

William is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial and in Shipley Church. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

*Note: see accompanying document "The Southdowns Battalions".

In Memory Of

Private

WILLIAM LUCAS

Service Number: SD/4040

11th Bn., Royal Sussex Regiment who died on 03 September 1916

Remembered with Honour

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

Pier and Face 7 C.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION**