

Richard Woodcock

Winterbottom Farm, Mill Lane, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel

Returned



His Story

Richard was born in May 1888 at Goostrey, though he lived at Winterbottom in Brereton as a child and seems to have gone to school there.

The 1911 census records that, by the age of 23 he was a joiner working for the London and North Western Railway and living with his brother Samuel in Santley Street, Longsight, Manchester. He was also a trained wheelwright.

In 1915, when Richard joined the army, his father James was the licensee of the Swan Inn, Holmes Chapel. Emigration records suggest that Richard Woodcock, a carpenter born in 1888, left for New Zealand in 1925, and this may well have been the same man as there is no record of his death in the UK.

His War Record

Richard is listed on the Roll of Honour but there is no mention of him in the Parish Magazine. Army records indicate that he joined up in November 1915 and was posted to the Railway Troops Depot of the Royal Engineers. After training, Sapper Woodcock (army number 149396) would have been posted to one of the RE Railway Construction Companies involved in rebuilding and extending the Allied railway network on the Western Front and even in Egypt and Salonica.

Richard was promoted to Lance Corporal in March 1916 and soon to Corporal, though he was injured and in hospital for the month of January 1917. He returned to the UK in September 1919 but transferred to the Class Z Reserve rather than complete demobilization. This meant that he could be recalled quickly should fighting resume. The Z Reserve was abolished in March 1920 and Richard was able to resume his civilian occupation.