



CORONERS INQUESTS



William Williams 14th May 1920

South Wilts Coroner: Mr. F. H. Trethowan

William Williams, from Solvery, Rhongoeh, North Wales, a soldier in the 109th Battery, had been reported missing from Winterbourne Gunner since April 16th.

His body was discovered in the River Avon at Stratford Sub Castle. The inquest was held the day after.

Lieutenant E. Walker stationed at the Experimental Station, Porton, gave evidence. He said that Williams was 29 years old and had been missing for nearly a month. He had been stationed at Winterbourne for 5 Weeks. He used to lose his memory and was strange in his manner. He had suffered from shell shock and nervous debility, but was not considered insane, because he was quiet and well behaved. He was placed under medical observation.

Bombardier Donovan said he had known Williams since he came to the station. On the night of April 16th a soldier in the hut had a fit, and William ran out and had not been seen, until his body was found in the river.

P.C. Mercer said that on Friday he received a report that a body had been found in the river at Stratford, and on going to the spot, he saw a man in RFA uniform lying on the bank. It was evident that the body had been lying in the water some considerable time and he had it removed to the Old Sarum Military Hospital. He searched the pockets and found money to the value of £3 15s. 9d. and papers showing he was William Williams. There were no notes to give any indication why he would drown himself.

Lieutenant L. G. Davis, medical officer at the Old Sarum Hospital, said that there were no marks of violence on the body and that Williams must have died some weeks ago. Death was very probably due to drowning.

The verdict returned was that Williams was found drowned.

With grateful thanks to Salisbury Inquests published by Wordpress.