

World War 1

Surname: Plume
Initials/Name: William Walter
Country of Service: UK
Rank: Gunner
Regiment: Royal Garrison Artillery
Unit: 184th Siege Battery
Service No: 68896
Age: 27
Date of Death: 28/6/1917
How died: Died of Wounds
Awards: -
Cemetery: Wimereux Connunal Cemetery
Country: France
Grave Reference: II.N.7A
Local Memorials: [Stock](#)
CWGC Page: [William Plume](#) (should this link fail, you can search the [CWGC](#) site)

Below from John Westwood

At the age of 26 years and one month, William Plume, resident of Stock joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery at Chelmsford. It was 13th Nov 1915 and the war had been going some fifteen months .

William was no slouch at 5ft 9in and as a jobbing builder he was just the right person to be part of the RGA. The Plumes were a large family, there being seven brothers and two sisters, not counting William. The oldest was Rose at 42, and the youngest was Sidney aged 20. Another brother, Bertram according to William's attestation papers was on active service, the whole family lived in or around Stock as was usual in those days.

1st Jan 1916 William was posted as a gunner, and on 8th July he went to the Siege Depot to await final placing. A month later and he was 68896 Gunner in the 184th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery. 12th October 1916 was the day he left Folkestone for Boulogne, arriving there a day later. The battery was part of the 81st Brigade, attached to the First Army. The RGA Siege Batteries were the largest guns and howitzers; mounted on railways or on massive, fixed concrete emplacements and consequently rather immobile.

One of the difficulties of tracing the whereabouts of these Siege Batteries is that they weren't always attached to a Division as they were positioned according to need. What is known is that when William was wounded in the field on the 15th June 1917, he was in the Ypres Salient and ended back at Wimereux Hospital in the Pas de Calais where he was hospitalised. He had according to his notes a compound fracture of the right leg, how he received the wound and the extend of the breakage is pure conjecture. Within two weeks William had died of those wounds on 29th June 1917 and was buried in the cemetery nearby.

In the following January Mrs Elizabeth Plume received a letter from RGA records which accompanied William's effects including, a disc, photos, letters, cigarette holder and broken gun metal watch. At the end of the letter there is a note to say that he had some money which was credited to his account and would have been passed on later.

It wasn't until after the war in 1919 that Elizabeth had her last letter from the RGA and that was William's plaque and scroll, which she duly acknowledged.

As for Bertram he returned to Stock and when he died, he was buried in the Catholic Churchyard, only a short distance from where he used to live.

Name.		Corp.	Rank.	Regt. No.
PLUME		RGA	Cms	68896
William				
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.	
VICTORY	RGA 134 ^B	3336		
BARRAGE				
Star				
Theatre of War first served in				
Date of entry therein				

K. 1380

Any further letter on this subject should be addressed to:
Officer in Charge
R. G. A. Records,
Dover
and the following No. quoted.

A/40/125-1/2635

From Officer in Charge Records
Dover
To Mrs Elizabeth Plume
Mill Road Stock
W. Ingabaston Essex
Station Dover Date 28

Place _____



See on MABAN.

I am directed to forward the undermentioned articles of private property of the late No. 48596 Rank Gunner
Name Plume W. Regt 124 Siege Bty. R.G.A.
and would ask that you will kindly acknowledge receipt of the same on the form opposite:-

- Disc, Letter, Photos, Religious
- Book, Gun Metal Watch (broken)
- Cigarette holder, Leather piece, 1 case
- 3 lb.

I, Elizabeth Plume, acknowledge receipt of the articles as stated opposite.

Yours faithfully,

(Sign here) Elizabeth Plume

The Officer in Charge Records,

Station Dover

These are the only articles at present forthcoming, but should any further articles be received at any time they will be duly forwarded.

Yours faithfully,
Mr. Plume had in his possession the sum of 15 francs

20 centimes which has been credited to his account. When the same was finally made up the War Office will communicate with you.

A. B. Stewart H.
Officer in Charge of Records,
R. G. A.

Mr. Plume
(62295)

William's Effects