

# William Thomas Ellis Curzon (1890-1935)

William was born in 1890, as a boy he worked at Lea Mills and later worked as a coal miner hewer at Wingfield Manor colliery before he joined the Sherwood Foresters. He attested, at Crich, on 17 October 1914. William's address was given as Rising Sun Lane Crich. He served with 1st Reserve Batn. And 5th Batn. Notts & Derby Regt. He was aged 24 years He entered France in March 1915 and was discharged wounded in March 1917. He had his left arm amputated as the result of a bullet wound to his elbow. The Sherwood Forester's records show him mentioned in dispatches as rescuing men buried under sandbags at Kemmel during May 1915. Later he was again mentioned in dispatches as keeping two guns in action at Hooze. On returning to Crich he became the village postmaster.



In 1920 his activities led to the formation of a branch of the Old Comrades Association at Crich, of which he became secretary. A year later the branch was converted into Crich Comrades Club LTD. He was the first secretary and later appointed to the dual position of secretary and treasurer. William married Louisa Taylor in 1921.

He was also a member of the Crich British Legion branch. He was interested in music and at one-time he was bandmaster of Crich United Band. He was also conductor of Crich P.M. Choir. In 1935 he died of natural causes in Derby Royal Infirmary aged forty four.

## **Derbyshire Courier, 5 February 1916**

A Crich soldier who is ill in hospital is Sgt William Curzon, news having been received recently by his mother to this effect. Sgt Curzon who is in the 5th Sherwood Forester's, stationed somewhere in the south of France, states in his letter that he has been bitten in the eye by a venomous insect whilst he was asleep.

## **Ripley & Heanor News, 20 April 1917**

Ex Sergt. William T. Curzon, of Crich, has been appointed postmaster for the village. The appointment has given the greatest satisfaction. Curzon was one of the first to volunteer, and for some time was in training at The Hayes, Swanwick. He went to France in February 1915, and was wounded on the Somme, being hit in the left arm with an explosive bullet, which shattered the elbow. The arm has had to be amputated.

## **Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald, 15 March 1935**

A well-known Crich native and resident died on Friday, Mr William Thomas Ellis Curzon, son of Mrs Curzon, and the late Mr Joseph Curzon, Crich. The deceased who was aged 44, had undergone an operation a few days previously. A wife and one son are bereaved.

The funeral was on Tuesday, at Crich Parish Church, the Rev H.E. Jones (vicar) officiating. The mourners were – the Widow; Ken (son); Mrs J Curzon (mother); Nancy; Pem and Mrs H. Moss (sisters); Mr and Mrs J. Curzon (brother and sister-in-law); Mr W. Taylor (father-in-law); Mr Harry Moss; Mr and Mrs W. Taylor; Mrs H. Taylor; Mr and Mrs Arthur Allen; Mr and Mrs Edward Martin; ex-Sgt Holmes and Mrs Holmes, Fritchley; Miss Marjorie Blount, Matlock; and other friends.

Capt Harry Slater of Nottingham represented the British Legion County Association and Mr John I. Woolley the Old Comrades Association. Mr Norman Smith (chairman) and other members represented Crich Comrades Club, Mr John Lister (chairman) and Mr E. Burt (secretary) represented Crich British Legion branch. Legionnaires were also present from Ambergate.

The bearers, members of Crich Comrades Club, were Charles Mason, James H. Dawes, Thomas Wood and John Sulley. Mr Maurice Deacon (president of the Club) was unable to attend; he sent a letter of sympathy.

## **Medal Index Record**

He was awarded Victory, British War and 15 Star Medals and the Silver War Badge.