

## Private Alfred Cornelius Putley, Yorks and Lancs, Army No 20693

In January 1915, the Leamington Courier carried the story that 44 men of some 400 residents of Moreton Morrell had volunteered. Alfred Cornelius Putley was named. However it has not been possible to find out where he was living in the village or what his occupation was at that time. However after the war in the Spennell's Directories for 1920 and 1924 he is listed as living in the village and is described as a chauffeur at Moreton Paddox which would mean he was working for Robert Emmet and family. It is likely that in 1914 he was similarly employed and residing at Moreton Paddox but that remains a presumption.

According to the Medal Card Index he served with the Yorks and Lancs and went to France in July 1915. He left the army in March 1919. His service record provides more information and shows that he initially joined up in September 1914 and was a private in the 14 Reserve Cavalry until being transferred to the Yorks and Lancs in June 1915 a month before going to France. He rose through the ranks to Sergeant. His service papers mention a claim for disability related to a wound but there is no indication of when he was wounded or whether he received any disability grant.

Putley was born in London in 1894 and was the son of Oliver and Elizabeth Putley. Oliver was a house painter. Sometime before the start of the war he had moved to live in Moreton Morrell. After the war he had married Annie in 1919 when he was still a soldier. They returned to live in Moreton Morrell and at least for some years after the war he worked as a chauffeur for the Emmet family. He and Annie had two children, Bernard in 1922 and Sylvia in 1923. Alfred's death was recorded in Stratford upon Avon in 1970. His wife Annie predeceased him in 1951 and their daughter Sylvia died in 1945.

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