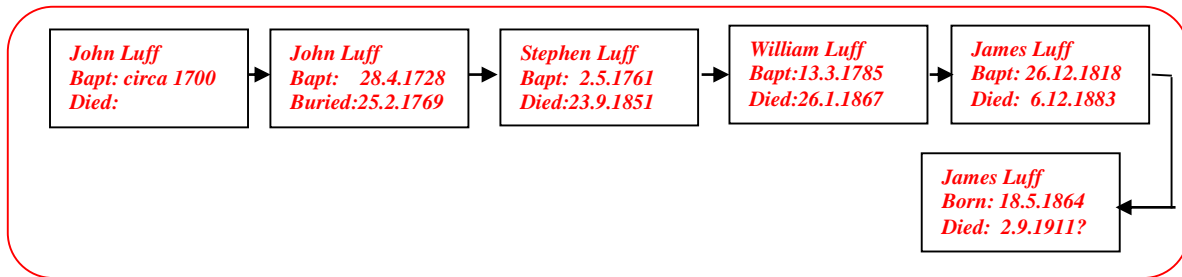


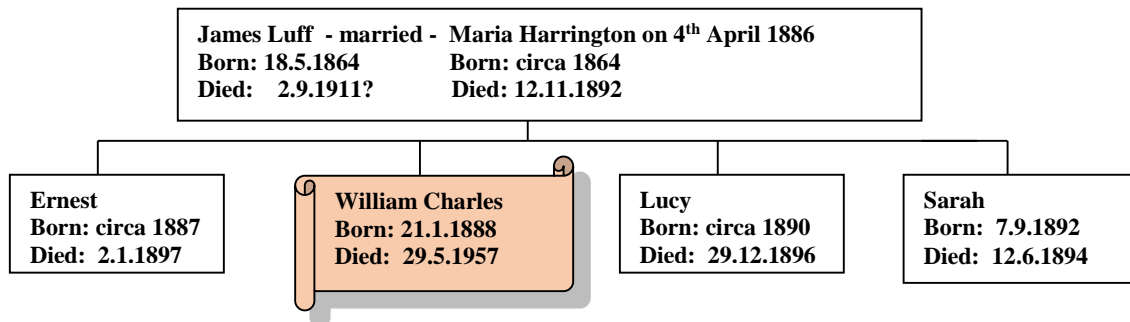
**William Charles Luff 1888 - 1957**

web-site [www.mike-jl.co.uk](http://www.mike-jl.co.uk)

**Family Lineage:**



William Charles Luff was born in Upper Hale on 21st January 1888. He was the son of James and Maria Luff.  
(Source: Official Birth certificate)



William must have had a very unhappy childhood. He lost his mother at the age of 4. With his father and siblings he knew the poverty of the workhouse. By the age of 9 he had lost his two sisters and older brother.

Continued.....

In 1901 at the age of 13, and the only surviving child, William was living with his father and grandmother in Wyke Cottages, Hale.

Extract from the 1901 Census taken on the night of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1901 in Farnham, Surrey.

Civil Parish		Enumeration Entry					County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward or Municipal Borough or of Urban District		Sanitary District		Administrative Division		Town or Village or Hamlet	
Farnham Rural		St John's Hale					Farnham		Farnham		Guilford		Hale			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Inhabited	Part of	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	Profession or Occupation	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lame	(4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
30	Hale		3		William Baker	Head	67	67	General Labourer			Surrey Farnham				
					Maria Baker	Wife	66	66				Do. Do.				
31	Wyke Cottages		1		George Luff	Head	59	59	House Painter	worker		Berks Wellington				
					Maria Luff	Wife	48	48				Surrey Hale Farnham				
					Anna Do.	Daughter	24	24				Do. Do.				
					John Do.	son	23	23	House Painter	worker		Do. Do.				
					Arthur Do.	son	18	18	General Labourer	worker		Do. Do.				
					Maud Do.	Daughter	13	13				Do. Do.				
					Yvonne Do.	son	10	10				Do. Do.				
					Edward Do.	son	9	9				Do. Do.				
					Malcolm Do.	son	4	4				Do. Do.				
32			1		Mary Winder	Head	44	44	Carpenter	worker		Berks Newbury				
					James Do.	Wife	46	46				Surrey Hale Farnham				
					Elizabeth Do.	Daughter	14	14				Do. Do.				
					James Do.	Daughter	10	10				Do. Do.				
					Maud Do.	Daughter	9	9				Do. Do.				
					Emily Do.	Daughter	5	5				Do. Do.				
					John Young	Boarder	19	19	General Labourer			Do. Do.				
33			1		Emily S. Rowe	Head	22	22				Surrey Do.				
					Harry P. Cook	son	9	9				Do. Farnham				
					Edward Cook	son	6	6				Do. Do.				
					Alice E. Rowe	Daughter	5 mo	5 mo				Do. Hale Do.				
34			1		John Chilly	Head	42	42	Penetration Labourer	worker		Do. Do. Do.				
					Mary Do.	Wife	47	47				Do. Do.				
					John Do.	Daughter	19	19				Do. Do.				
					Anna Do.	Daughter	15	15				Do. Do.				
					Edward Do.	son	10	10				Do. Do.				
35			1		Lucy Luff	Head	67	67	General Labourer			Berks Chaddleshall				
					James Do.	son	35	35	General Labourer			Do. London				
					George Do.	son	25	25	Carpenter's Labourer	worker		Surrey Farnham				
					William Do.	son	13	13				Do. Do.				
6	Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than	6			Total of Males and of Females		16	15								

Street Name	Name	Position	State	Age/Sex	Employment	Birth Place
Wyke Cotts	Lucy Luff	Head	Widow	67/FMale		Chaddleshall/ Berks
	James Luff	Son	Widower	35/Male	Gen labourer(not working)	St Lukes, London
	George Luff	Son	single	25/Male	Carpenter's Labourer	Farnham, Surrey
	<b>William Luff</b>	<b>Son</b>		<b>13/Male</b>		<b>Farnham, Surrey</b>

William enlisted as a professional soldier in 1907, at the age of 19. He is shown as being 5ft 10 1/2 ins in height, having blue eyes, brown hair with a fair complexion. Prior to joining the Army he gives his occupation as a labourer. The Army probably provided William with a basic education. I would suspect he was probably illiterate prior to signing up. In 1913 when he was put in the Army Reserves he could sign his name.

Indications are that after his grandmother died in 1903 he lived with his uncle Frederick George at 1 Hillside Cottages, Heath End. I know that while on leave from the Army William used to stay at 1 Hillside Cottages.

Continued.....

Williams Army Record, as a professional soldier, 1907 – 1913

49 298.  
19 11 11

Army Form D. 426.

N.B.—Any person finding this Certificate is requested to forward it, in an unstamped envelope, to the Secretary, War Office, London, S.W.

Should this Parchment be lost or mislaid no duplicate of it can be obtained.

PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE of No. 415105 (Rank) *Gunner*

(Name) *William Luff*

*79th Battery Royal Field Artillery* Regiment

Born in the Parish of *Hale* near the Town of *Farnham*

in the County of *Surrey*

Attested at *Aldershot* on the *16th* *January* 1907

for the *RFA 79A* Regiment, at the Age of *19* years.

His description is as follows:—

Age *20* years. Height *5 ft. 10 1/2 ins.* Complexion *Fair*

Eyes *Blue* Hair *Brown* Teeth *sound*

Marks or scars on the face or other parts of the body *Bulk marks Rt arm & on centre of hip 9 1/2 in*

Signature of Man *W. Luff*

He is transferred to the Army Reserve in consequence of expiration of his period of army service

Service in the Army

Transferred to

Discharged on

Service towards completion

Discharged condition

Continued.....

Army Record page 2

His conduct and character while with the Colours have been :-

Place Examp'ary  
Jhansi Rwahnore

Date 1-10-1912 Commanding \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Employment. (Give particulars of any special employment which he pursued during his service as a soldier, or for which he has shown special aptitude, and also of any technical classes, etc.)  
labourer

State below generally character as regards his qualifications for Civil Employment, in accordance with the King's Regulations.  
No case of drunkenness during his Service

Trade on Enlistment (to be stated if an Apprentice)

\* No instance of misconduct have been brought to notice during his service in the Reserve.

Is in possession of a \_\_\_\_\_ Class Certificate of Education.  
1st Class Army Certificate—Well Educated.  
2nd " " — Good Elementary Education in reading, writing and arithmetic.  
3rd " " — Fair " " " " " "

Campaigns \_\_\_\_\_

Medals and Decorations \_\_\_\_\_  
W. P. Medal

Continued....

**Below is a recent photo of the Ball & Wicket Pub. Ball & Wicket Lane (to the left) is where Jane Luff (Ayling) lived for many years, before her death in 1945; she was 84 when she died. William's son, Frederick George Luff with his cousin William Thomas, used to cycle from Chelsea to visit their Great Aunt just before the Second World War.**



**William, standing, enlisted in the Army at Aldershot on 14th January 1907, aged 19. He served with the 79th Battery Royal Field Artillery, reaching the rank of Gunner. He served time in India until he completed his period of army service in 1913**



**Continued.....**

**William Charles Luff, Army football team India 1913**



**79th Battery R.F.A. - Right Section**

**Winners - Inter League - Challenge Cup - 1913 - Jhansi India**

**Back Row: Br. Chandler, Gr. Walford, B.S.M. Collison, Gr. Luff (Capt), Gr. Kempson. (Trainer)**

**Middle Row: Gr. Grimer, Gr. Burt, Dr. Farquarson.**

**Bottom Row: Br. Neighbour, Gr. Gibson, Gr. Henrietta, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Paton.**

**In 1913 William then transferred to the Army Reserve and found work as a labourer.**

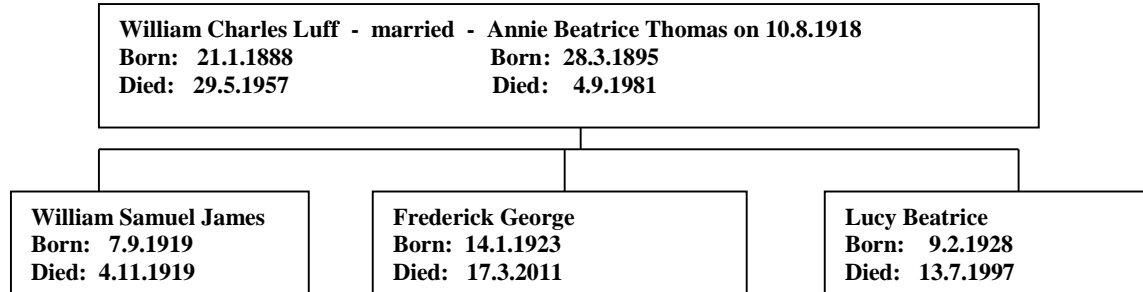
**At the outbreak of the 1st World War, he was promoted to the rank of Bombardier. He served in France near Rouen in 1915. He was wounded. In May 1916 he was transferred to duties in India. He was stationed in Calcutta and Jubbulpore (1917). He was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.**



**Continued.....**

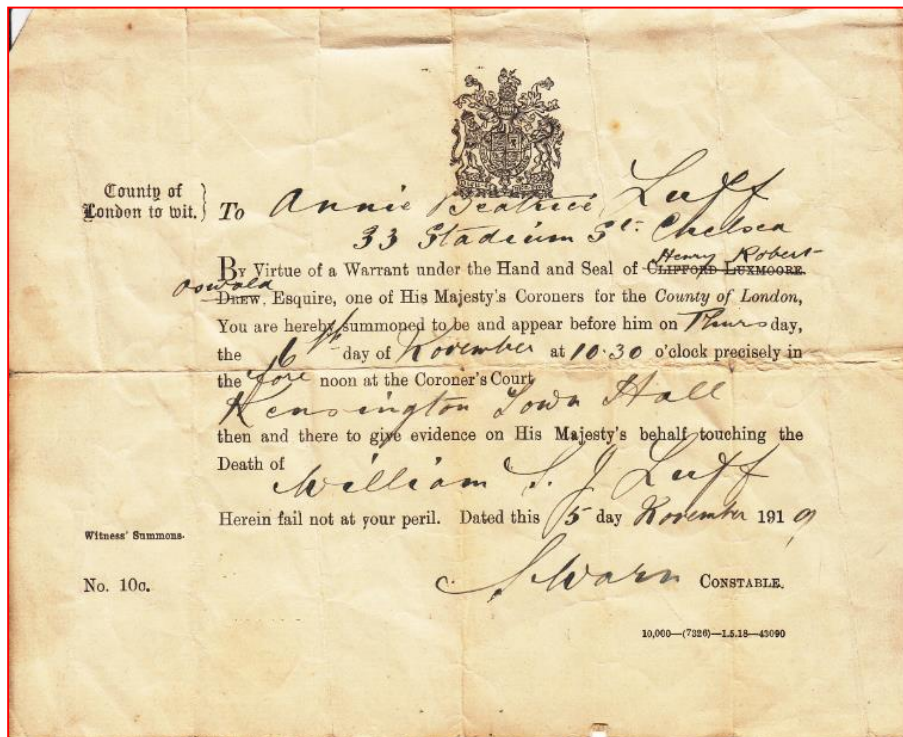
William married Annie Beatrice Thomas in Chelsea on 10th August 1918. (Source: Official Marriage certificate).

Annie Beatrice was born in Rawalpindi, India (now Pakistan) on 28th March 1895. They were cousins, William's Aunt (Mary Ann Luff) was Annie's mother. The marriage produced 3 children:



The family lived at 33 Stadium Street, Chelsea. This was a 3 storey building, and was where Annie Thomas lived with her parents before her marriage.

William and Annie's first child was William Samuel James born on 7th September 1919. He died on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1919, and was buried in Wandsworth cemetery. He died as a result of being accidentally smothered by his mother. Due to the nature of the death Annie was summoned to appear before Henry Robert Oswald, H.M Coroner for the City of London, on 5th November 1919, to give evidence about the death.



Continued.....

The Electoral Register for 1922 shows Annie Beatrice and her husband William Charles Luff living at 33, Stadium Street, Chelsea. They were living with Annie's parents Samuel & Mary Ann.

The Electoral Register for 1923 details the residents of 33 Stadium Street, Chelsea as:  
Samuel John Payne Thomas  
Mary Ann Thomas  
Samuel George Thomas (Son of Samuel & Mary Ann)  
Annie Beatrice Luff  
William Charles Luff

Annie gave birth to their second son Frederick George on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1923.

The Electoral Register for 1924 details the residents of 33 Stadium Street, Chelsea as:  
Samuel John Payne Thomas  
Mary Ann Thomas)  
Annie Beatrice Luff  
William Charles Luff

The Electoral Register for 1925 details the residents of 33 Stadium Street, Chelsea as:  
Samuel John Payne Thomas  
Mary Ann Thomas)  
Annie Beatrice Luff  
William Charles Luff  
Patrick Adolphus Thomas (Son of Samuel & Mary Ann)  
William James Thomas (Son of Samuel & Mary Ann)  
Not shown on the Register but Sarah Thomas, William's wife was living at the premises.

The Electoral Register for 1927 details the residents of 33 Stadium Street, Chelsea as:  
Annie Beatrice Luff  
William Charles Luff  
William James Thomas  
Not shown on the Register but Sarah Thomas, William's wife was living at the premises.

Lucy Beatrice, their third child, was born on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1928.  
William and his family lived at 33 Stadium Stadium Street, Chelsea until December 1940 when they were bombed out during the Blitz. They were then housed in a requisitioned property in Draycott Avenue, near Sloane Square, until late 1942 when they moved into 34 Hortensia House, Chelsea.

William and his wife lived at 34 Hortensia House, Chelsea, until his death in 1957.

William Charles Luff possibly on Civil Defence Duties during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

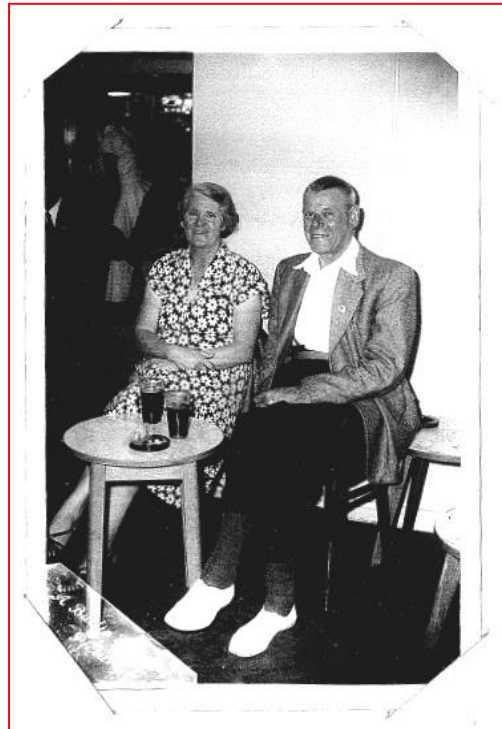


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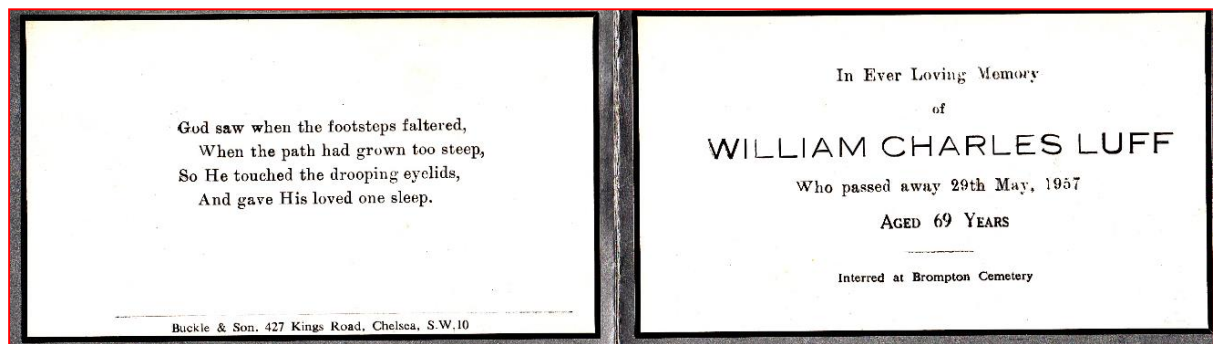
William was employed as a road repair worker with the Westminster City Council for 32 years until his retirement on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1953.

William Charles and his wife Annie on holiday. This photo was probably taken around 1954. Error! Reference source not found.



After retirement William took a job as a lift-man at the Westminster Building in Victoria Street. It was generally accepted that the conditions of this job, standing for hours in an unheated environment, and having smoked for many years, contributed to his death. He died in Westminster hospital, of lung cancer and gastric ulceration with Melaena, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1957, aged 69. (Source: Official Death certificate)

William Charles Luff was buried in Brompton Cemetery, Chelsea.



William Luff's widow, Annie Beatrice, died on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1981, aged 86, in Haverhill, Suffolk.