



NAME: Hiram BEVAN

INITIALS: H

NATIONALITY: United Kingdom

RANK: Sapper

REGIMENT/SERVICE: Royal Engineers ✓

UNIT TEXT: 157th Field Coy

AGE: 36

DATE OF BIRTH: 4th August 1882

DATE OF DEATH: 31st October 1918 / 31.10.1918 ✓

SERVICE NO.: 213534

ADDITIONAL INFO: Husband of Maud Emily Bevan, of 1 Rose Cottage, West Heath,
Northfield near Birmingham. ✓

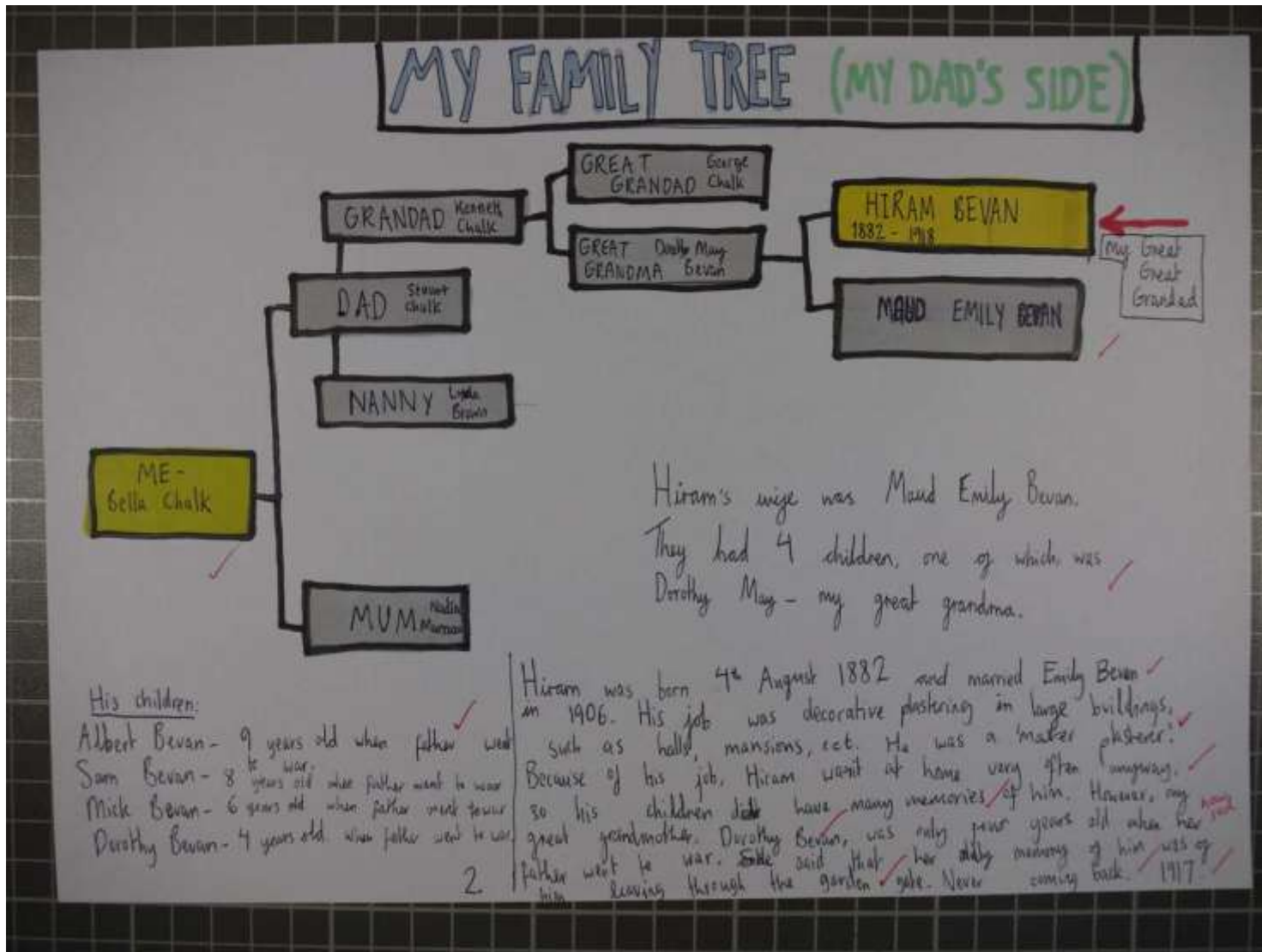
CASUALTY TYPE: Commonwealth War Dead ✓

GRAVE MEMORIAL REFERENCE: VI. F.3

CEMETRY: TERLINCTHUN BRITISH CEMETRY, WIMILLE ✓

COUNTRY: France, Pas de Calais.

Died from Spanish Flu 12 days before the war ended. ✓



home sweet home 

Hiram and his wife, Maud, lived on the outskirts of Birmingham in a house they called Rose Cottage. Their Address: 1, Rose Cottage, West Heath, Northfield, near Birmingham, United Kingdom. Maud Emily Benn, his wife, lived at the house for a while, until the council took over it. She said that no where else, she lived was quite as nice.



The junction of Fiddell Road and West Heath Road near the corner of the Fordrough, 1937.

→



What Rose Cottage now looks like. If you look across the road, you could see a Tesco Express. That is how much this area has changed, it used to be all fields.

→



If you look very carefully at the exterior of the house, there is a small plaque on the wall. You can slightly make out the words: "Rose Cottage" and undoubtedly a date. (too hard to make out)



← West Heath, Northfield, Near Birmingham, England.

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↑

This plaque is the only thing left of the original building.

Great research

Hiram's Regiment


Hiram left for war in 1917

Hiram's Regiment/service was the Royal Engineers.


The Royal Engineers were very important in World War I because they were the ones who maintained the railways, roads, bridges, transport and water supply. This would mean that if they were not engineering these areas, there would be no supply to the armies. The Royal Engineers also were in control of the telephones, wireless and other signalling equipment.

Overall, there was about 295,668 Royal Engineers by 1917.

This is a framed picture that I found at my Grandad's house, his grandfather, Hiram is in the front row, third from the left:




Hiram Bevan: front row, third from the left.
 Royal Engineers Training Centre, Newark.
 January 1917.



Enlarged photo of Hiram.
 (the one with the largest mustache)

Hiram's Rank was a sapper...
 equivalent to a private

well explained

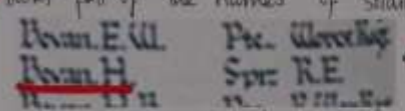


Royal Engineers war sapper

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Hiram's name can be found in the Hall of Memory, central Birmingham. There is a large book, full of the names of soldiers who gave up their lives for WWI and WW2.

← Remembrance book - online version




← close up of page where Hiram's name can be found.


Hiram did not actually die from fighting or being shot ect, but from Spanish Flu. This tragic disease killed more people than the Great War itself, Spanish Flu killed up to 70 million people overall, whereas the war killed about 8.5 million. It is said to be the most devastating epidemic recorded in history, more people dying in a single year than in four years of the Black Death.

Hiram Bevan died from Spanish Flu, 12 days before the war ended, 31st October, 1918, age 36. His grave/memorial is in the Tertincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France.

Amazing statistics so sad.



Map of location of Tertincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France.



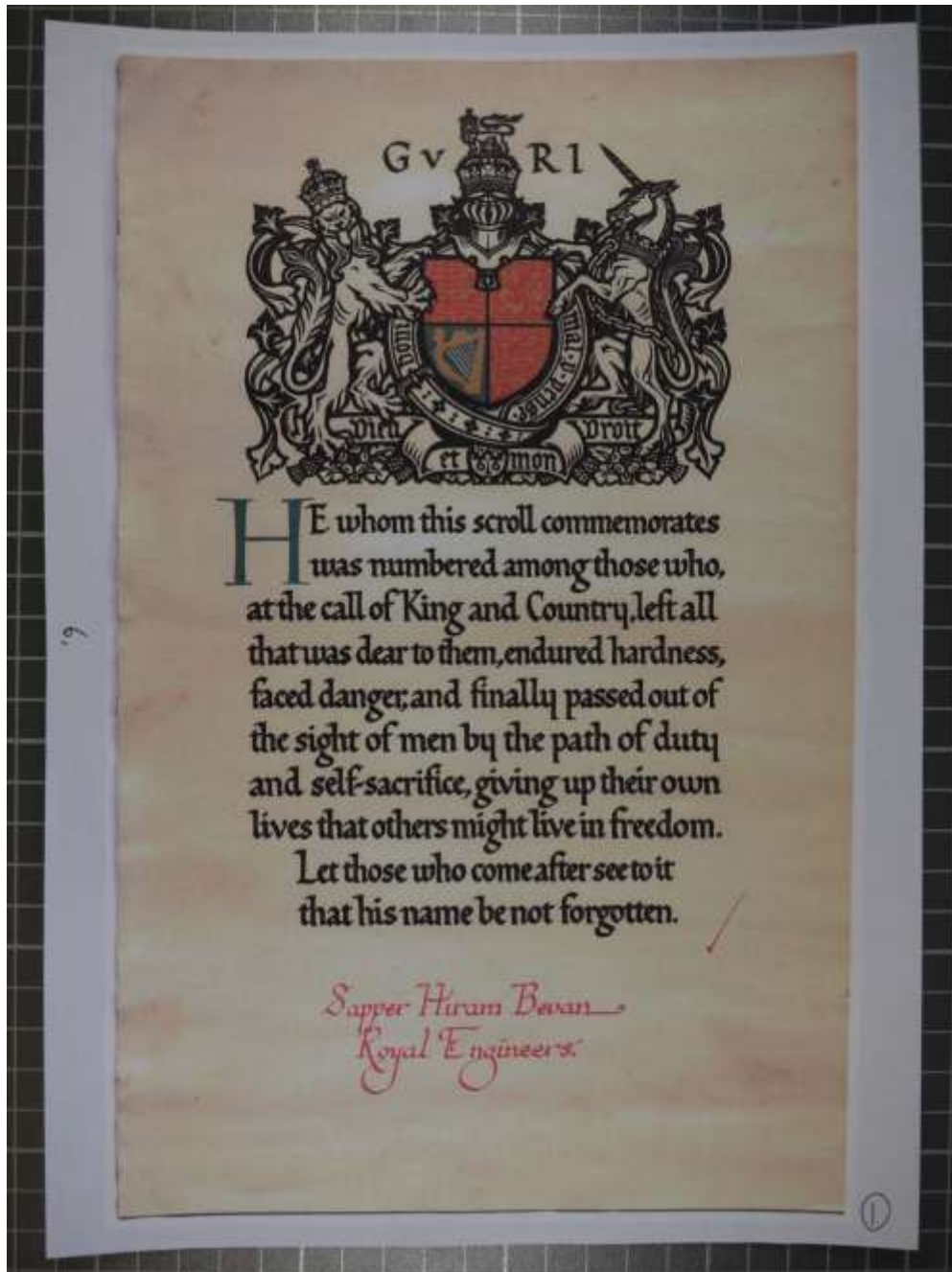
Memorial Certificate (online).

Grave / Memorial Reference:
VI.F.3

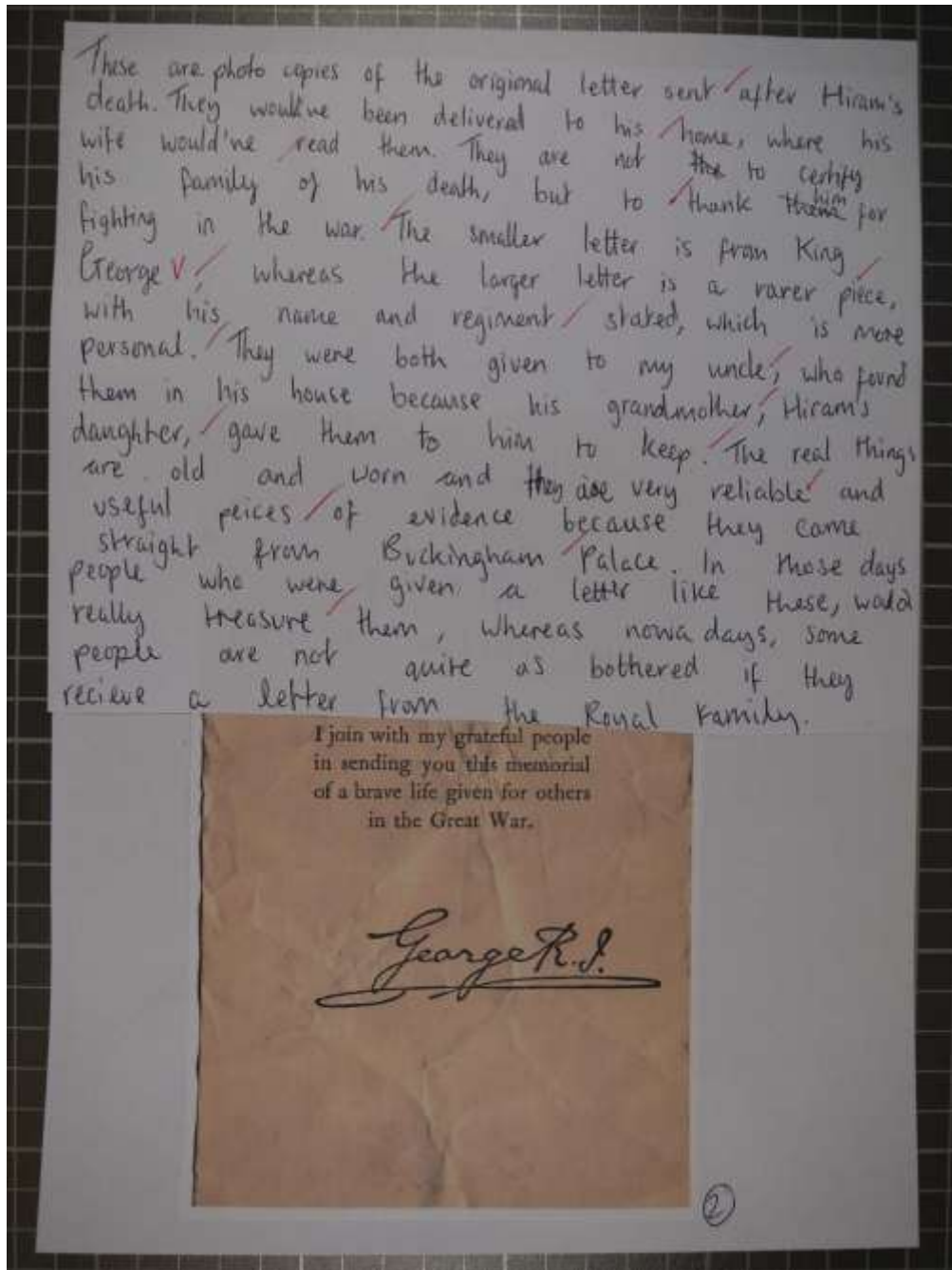
213534, 157th Field Coy. Royal Engineers who died on 31 October, 1918, Age 36.

Remembered with Honour
Tertincthun British Cemetery, Wimille

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CONCLUSION

I chose my soldier because, for me, it was more interesting to find out about someone in my own family, who had suffered and had had a part in the war, just like all those millions of others. But by looking more closely at someone my Grandad couldn't know or recovering information about Hiram Bevan's life that maybe the rest of us didn't think to do. It attaches the family more to him, even though we hardly knew him. I found most of my information from the internet and from my grandparents. I typed in my soldier's name and some of the important details, such as his regiment and rank, then looked at websites that seemed to match the information I had already got - (which had been given to me by my grandad). I signed up to certain websites, like Ancestry, to find documents and the family tree. I kept visiting my grandparents for memories or photographs, they passed on to me what my great grandma had told them, which was very useful and quite reliable because it was her own memory, the only one that she had of her father, Hiram Bevan. My Grandad has the picture of Hiram and his regiment in his study, which I had always wondered what it was, but never thought to ask. We found him in the front row and I took a photo. The original, framed photograph is very reliable because it was the official photograph of his regiment, with the brooch, logo for the Royal Engineers at the bottom. I know it is official because I researched the brooch and the Royal Engineers uniform. There are many other photographs like Hiram's, where the whole regiment is sitting in rows, looking straight forward at the camera, very planned and staged. Also it was taken at the time of the war, it stating clearly at the bottom: Newark, January, 1917, when Hiram went to war and when his Regiment was training. as it says: TRAINING CENTRE. I found out more about the Royal Engineers from researching it. I knew to look at it because it had been printed onto the framed photograph and I had wondered what it meant. Websites such as: Forces War Records which I signed up to and found out facts about Royal Engineers. It was fact information because

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it fitted in with what I already knew about the war and not only did it tell me about Royal Engineers, but also about whether any medals had been given or how old they were when they went to war. When I found out a bit of information, I wrote it down as a note and researched it along with the soldier's name, that way, if another website had the same information, I knew it was correct, or at least closer to the truth than I was at the start. For example, my grandparents did not know the exact date when he was born, just the year, so I Googled it: "Hiram Bevan Born 1882". I clicked the first website it came up with and it told me he was born 4th August 1882. I clicked on another website and it told me the same thing. I knew it was a fact because the same information had been written, and I knew that it made sense with what I already knew/had. However, it was not always this simple, as, sometimes I would either find one website saying something different to another, or no one had an answer at all for what I needed to know. It all came down to how reliable it was. I started to look through the whole websites and soon realised one of them had old documents and papers etc, whereas the other one didn't. I decided to use this information because it had the real documents. I also found the same information in a book that I found at in Worthing Library. I find Books more reliable because they have been published and, usually have pictures as examples, whereas anyone can write anything on the internet. However, Overall I found this project quite enjoyable. I was very excited about it when we were told about it in class, but then when it came to the researching, I was a little bored because I don't like researching, but like to have all the information there, in front of me to copy into my own words. But as this project was mostly about the

researching, I made sure I did a good job of it, therefore making me get better at it. The project was enjoyable though, because I learnt about World War I, which is very useful for myself and my family because I have taught myself (by researching) about Hiram Devon, which gives my family a better idea of him and who he was. I have learnt about how difficult it is to find information without signing up and paying to websites and that some things are just mysteries because ^{there} ~~there~~ is no evidence to show some of the 'facts' written online. I learnt about the Royal Engineers, during the war, my own family tree on my dad's side, what a Supper is and where Hiram is buried. I also found out about the Spanish Flu epidemic and how devastating it was. The fact that Hiram died only 12 days before the war ended is really sad, and it wasn't even because of the war itself, but a nasty disease. What would it have been like if he had survived and come back to Birmingham to see his wife and children? Well, one thing I know is I wouldn't be writing this project about him, but also ~~we~~ we would probably know a lot more, from first hand experiences. On the other hand, many survivors of the war didn't say much about the war because of how horrible it was. So maybe we would have ~~is~~ less or just the same amount of knowledge ^{up} his experiences. Overall, I have found this project very interesting and useful. It could've been useful if I could've found out some hidden information about medals won, (if any) ect, because I could only do so by paying - which wasn't possible. Apart from that, I am very happy about ^{at} how my project has gone, I have more knowledge!