Hiram Bevan

My Great Great Grandfather

WW1 Project

BJ Bella Chalk, IV
NAME: Hiram BEVAN
INITIALS: H
NATIONALITY: United Kingdom
RANK: Sergeant
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
Cemetery: TERLINcthun, British Cemetery, Wimille
COUNTRY: France, Pas de Calais.

Died from Spanish Flu 12 days before the war ended.
My Family Tree (My Dad's Side)

Grandad: Hiram Gevan

Dad: Seaver Chalk

Nanny: Luda Buvan

Me - Stella Chalk

Great Grandad: George Chalk

Great Grandad: George Gevan

Great Grandma: Emily Gevan

Maud Emily Gevan

Hiram's wife was Maud Emily Buvan.
They had 4 children, one of which was Dorothy May - my great grandma.

Hiram was born 1st August 1882 and married Emily Buvan in 1906. His job was decorative plastering in large buildings, such as halls, mansions, etc. He was aaler plasterer.

Because of his job, Hiram and his family moved many times. However, my mother has many memories of him. He would tell her stories of his work.

Dorothy Buvan, was only four years old when her father went to war. She said that her only memory of him was him passing through the garden gate. Now coming back. 1917.

His children:
- Albert Buvan: 9 years old when father went to war.
- Sam Buvan: 8 years old when father went to war.
- Dick Buvan: 6 years old when father went to war.
- Dorothy Buvan: 4 years old when father went to war.
Hiram and his wife, Maud, lived on the outskirts of Birmingham in a house they called Rose Cottage. Their address: 2, Rose Cottage, West Heath, Northfield, near Birmingham, United Kingdom.

She said that when else, she lived was quite as nice.

If you look very carefully at the extension of this house, there is a small plaque on the wall. You can slightly make out the words: “Rose Cottage” and undeniably a date (I’ve had to make out)

His plaque is the only thing left of the original building.
Hiram's Regiment

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's Rank was a 'sapper'... equivalent to a Private.
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 WW1 and WW2. (Footnote: contact Heritage South.)

Hiram did not actually die from fighting or being shot etc, 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 Owen died from Spanish Flu, 12 days before the war ended, 31st October 1918, age 36. So sad.

Memorial Reference:

Grave / Memorial Reference:
V.I.F. 3

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

Remembered with Honour
Terrincon British Cemetery, Wimille.
He whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardship, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after seek to it that his name be not forgotten.

Sapper Hiram Bowen
Royal Engineers
About the certificates/letters

1 and 2

I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War.

George V

[Signature]
These are photo copies of the original letters sent after Hiram's death. They would have been delivered to his home, where his wife would have read them. They are not the letters to certify Hiram's death, but to thank the family for fighting in the war. The smaller letter is from King George V, whereas the larger letter is a rarer piece, with his name and regimental number, which is more personal. They were both given to my uncle, who found them in his house because his grandmother, Hiram's daughter, gave them to him to keep. The real things are old and worn, and they are very reliable and useful pieces of evidence because they come straight from Buckingham Palace. In those days, people who were given a letter like this would really treasure them, whereas nowadays, some people are not quite as bothered if they receive a letter from the Royal Family.

I join with my grateful people in sending you this testimonial of a brave life given for others in the Great War.

George V.
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 closely at someone my great-grandfather I could find out much more about his life and times. It made the family more to hand, even though we hardly knew him. I found most of my information from websites that seemed to match the information I had already got. I found documents and photographs through Ancestry, to help me find out more about my grandparents. I typed in my soldiers 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 also got access to a library and to websites such as Forces War Records.

I researched his family and his regiment in his story, which I had always wondered about. The original, framed photograph is very reliable because it was the official photograph of his regiment. It showed his rank and the Royal Engineers uniform. There are many other photographs, some of which were very similar to the official ones. I researched his regiment and found out more about the Royal Engineers. It was very informative because I had been able to find out facts about other regiments.
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 home, that way, if another website had the same information, I knew it was correct, or at least closer to the exact date when he was born, just the year. So I Googled it: "Hiram Bevan was born 4th August 1882," I clicked on the first website it came up with and it told me he was 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. However, it was not always this simple; as, sometimes I would either find one website saying something different to another, or no one had any answer at all for what I needed to know. It all came down to how reliable it was. I started to browse 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 looked at in Worthing Library. I found books were 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 laid 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. 

Bevan, which gives my family a better idea of him and who he was. I have been going to websites and that some things are just mysteries because 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 Sapper 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 he see his wife and children? Well, one thing I know is I wouldn’t be writing this 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 less or the same amount of knowledge on his experiences.

Overall, I have found this project very interesting and useful. It could’ve been more if we could find out some hidden information about models we’re not taught about, but it was as possible. Apart from that, I am very happy about how my project has gone, I have more knowledge!